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**Nile cruiser runs aground; 51 rescued**  
CAIRO (AP) — Nile patrol boats carried 51 German tourists to safety on Wednesday after their cruiser ran aground in southern Egypt. It was the eighth cruiser to get mired in mud this week in the Nile, which is at its annual low while maintenance work is carried out on irrigation canals. None of the tourists aboard the cruiser Norma were injured in the incident near the town of Asmant, 520 kilometres south of Cairo. The town is close to Luxor, site of Pharaonic temples and tombs that are among the most popular tourist sites in Egypt. The passengers were taken off the cruiser on Nile police launches and continued their trip by bus, police said. The crew also was evacuated, but the number was not immediately available. Police said it was the eighth cruiser to run aground this week. Irrigation authorities close the Aswan Dam and shut down the flow of water from Lake Nasser into the Nile every December.

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19-20, 1996, SHAABAN 8-9, 1417

**This Christmas**  
The power of 3D  
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SONY PlayStation  
available only at  
megatech  
Tel. 857022, 857044, open Fridays

**King, Mubarak discuss peace process**  
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday discussed over the phone coordination between Jordan and Egypt to prevent the deterioration of the Middle East peace process and means to reactivate Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

**Kabariti, Ben Alawi exchange views**  
AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Wednesday received a phone call from Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in the peace process. Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Ben Alawi expressed concern over the Israeli policy vis-a-vis the peace process and its plans to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

**Settler goes on trial for beating death**  
TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nahum Kurman, security chief at a small Jewish settlement in the West Bank, went on trial Wednesday charged with manslaughter in the beating death of a 10-year-old Palestinian boy.

**Trial of expelled separatist Yemenis postponed**  
SANAA (AFP) — The trial of Yemeni separatists who fled the country after losing the 1994 civil war has been postponed until Feb. 15 when it will finally go ahead even if they remain absent, officials said Wednesday. Fifteen southern leaders who are accused of high treason and violating the constitution but now living in Britain and several Arab states have been summoned repeatedly for trial over the last several months.

**Netanyahu advised against meeting Fini**  
TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's ambassador to Italy urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to meet with Gianfranco Fini, an Italian politician with neo-fascist connections, the daily Yediot Achronot reported Wednesday. The daily said such a meeting had been set for Jan. 5. Mr. Fini is the head of the National Alliance, an offshoot of a neo-fascist party he once led. Ambassador Yehuda Milo wrote Mr. Netanyahu that such a meeting could damage Israel's relationship with the Italian Jewish community as well as the Italian government, the newspaper said.

**Syrian minibus attacked near Beirut**  
BEIRUT (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a Syrian-registered minibus north of Beirut on Wednesday, killing one Syrian national and wounding another, police said. Unknown people opened fire with machine guns on a Syrian-registered minibus carrying travellers on Wednesday at 2:20 a.m. (0030 GMT) at Tabarja on the coast road linking Beirut and Syria, a senior officer in the internal security forces told AFP. "One passenger was killed and another was wounded," he said, adding that a search had been launched for the attackers.

# Jordan condemns Israeli policies, warns of 'bloody confrontations'

## Kabariti reaffirms Kingdom's commitment to peace process but denounces Israeli actions that threaten not only Palestinians but also Jordan

### Jordanian-Tunisian meetings end with wide ranging agreement on cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Wednesday condemned Israel's continued repression of the Palestinian people and its disregard of agreements it has signed with the Palestinians and warned that such behaviour would lead to violence in the region.

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti also accused Israel of starving the Palestinian people by its continued blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said the Jordanian leadership would make its rejection of such practices to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who visits Amman today (Thursday).

Mr. Kabariti was addressing a joint press conference with his Tunisian counterpart Hamed Al Karoui after the conclusion of a two-day meeting by the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee.

Dr. Karoui told the press conference that his country would slow the normalisation of ties with Israel if peace talks do not progress, but does not plan to freeze relations.

"The pace of normalisation of relations with Israel is linked to Israeli compliance with and commitments to accords reached with the Palestinians," Dr. Karoui said. "But we find no use to freeze or cut those relations."

He said he was unaware of Arab press reports that quoted Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya on Tuesday as threatening to freeze relations with Israel.

Mr. Kabariti said Israel's "failure to implement agreements is something that can only be condemned because such behaviour will result in an explosive situation that could lead to bloody confrontations and a human tragedy, posing a threat not only to the Palestinian people but also to the whole region."

The government will make this clear to Mr. Levy during his visit to Amman, Mr. Kabariti said. "We make our judgement not on the basis of words and statements but practices and facts on the ground," he said.

That was a reference to repeated affirmations by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he was committed to respecting the Oslo agreements the previous Labour government signed with the



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and his Tunisian counterpart Hamed Al Karoui on Wednesday exchange the signed minutes of a two-day meeting of a joint committee held in Amman (photo by Youssef Allan)

# Crown Prince calls on Arab political parties to adopt joint action as a permanent feature

## HRH, in address to Amman conference, stresses need for conflict-settlement mechanism in Arab and Muslim worlds

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday urged Arab political parties to focus their efforts on forming a new Arab Order in which collective Arab action will be a permanent feature and not a temporary reaction to political developments.

In a speech he delivered at the first conference of Arab political parties

**'Half the society is not here'**  
HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday expressed disappointment over the absence of women representatives in the meeting.

"It seems to me that half of society is not here," the Crown Prince told the meeting.

Only seven women delegates attended the conference, Abia Abu Ithel from the leftist Hashed Party said most of the parties include female members but attributed women's absence from the conference to their absence in leadership positions. In a study conducted by women activist Khadijah Abu Ali, women representation in political parties in Jordan is very minimal: 16 out of 20 parties do not have women in leadership posts and three parties do not have women in their founding committees.

Women say their role not recognised, page 12.

# Pressure said to have prompted Israeli freezing of Ras Al Amud building plan

## Gaps wide in talks — Erakat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's government is backing off plans to build homes for Jews in a Palestinian neighbourhood in Jerusalem after the project sparked international criticism, an Israeli daily said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to advise Interior Minister Eli Suissa to put the plans on hold, the daily Yediot Achronot said.

Last week, Israeli planners approved the construction of 132 homes for Jews in the Ras Al Amud neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, Palestinians warned the move could spark new violence.

The Palestinians want to establish a capital in Jerusalem's eastern sector, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war.

New Jewish neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem — especially in areas heavily populated with Palestinians — will make it increasingly difficult for the Palestinians to set up the capital there.

The construction plans await Mr. Suissa's signature before builders can start operating bulldozers and tractors.

Yediot political correspondent Shimon Shiffer told Israel army radio that sources told him that Mr. Netanyahu decided to stop the plans because "it was not the time to renew the conflict with the Palestinians and it is better to progress in negotiations."

But top Mr. Netanyahu aide David Bar-Ilan said he did not know of any decision taken on the Ras Al Amud construction. Mr. Suissa said the prime minister had not spoken to him on the matter.

Mr. Suissa indicated that he intended to approve the building plans, but would consider asking the contractors to postpone starting construction.

"Jerusalem needs to be strengthened," Mr. Suissa told Israel radio. "I do not intend to argue over every plan in Jerusalem. There are sensitive plans that we must look at and perhaps look at the timing of starting the construction."

Palestinian leaders have called the Ras Al Amud plan an extreme provocation and warned it could spark new violence similar to protests over the opening of new entrance to a Jerusalem archaeological tunnel in September that killed 86 people.

The East Jerusalem project, seen as one of the most provocative initiatives in Netanyahu's campaign to expand Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas, also prompted criticism from the United States and the European Union.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday warned that the Netanyahu policy was an obstacle to peace and was pre-empting future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on a final status for the Palestinian territories and Jerusalem.

Palestinian National Authority Cabinet Secretary Ahmad Abdul Rahman said Wednesday that Israel was forfeiting peace with policy decisions undermining Palestinian claims to autonomy.

"The Israeli government must stop these shifts in its policy," Mr. Abdul Rahman said. "Israel's Arabic-language radio. "One day they will build Ras Al Amud, one day they open a tunnel, one day the West Bank is the capital of the Jewish state."

"There is not one bit of trust left (towards the Netanyahu government)," Mr. Abdul Rahman said. "They say a lot but their deeds are terrible."

The 3.5 acre Ras Al Amud plot was bought by Irving Moskowitz, a Miami millionaire who has also contributed to other controversial projects in

# Peru rebels dig in, threaten to kill Japanese embassy hostages

LIMA (R) — Peruvian rebels who stormed the Japanese ambassador's home in Lima threatened on Wednesday to kill at least 200 hostages, including high-ranking foreign diplomats, unless the government freed jailed comrades.

Israeli officials said Tuesday they were trying to arrange a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to try and finalise a Hebron deal. Such a summit would not be held before the weekend when Mr. Arafat returns from a trip to Europe, the Israeli officials said.

Under the peace accords signed by the Palestinians and Israel's previous government, Israeli troops

President Alberto Fujimori told Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto by telephone that about 200 people were being held. Mr. Fujimori said Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila was negotiating with the guerrillas to seek the release of the hostages, according to Japan's foreign ministry.

The Cuban-inspired Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas, who called the operation "breaking the silence," claimed they held 250 hostages after the release of about 80 women and old people.

"If they do not release our prisoners, we will all die here," an MRTA guerrilla told a local radio station from within the embassy residence.

The released hostages came out of the residence

dazed and crying. "They are freeing us to show that they are not doing us any harm," said one woman.

Japan's foreign minister told a news conference the Japanese ambassador to Peru said he saw no signs of negotiations going on to free the hostages, who were captured while attending a party to honour the Japanese emperor's birthday.

"He (the ambassador) said there was no feeling around him inside the residence that negotiations are going on," Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said of his 10-minute phone call with Ambassador Morihisa Aoki early on Wednesday.

Mr. Ikeda, who said about 60 Japanese were among the hostages, quoted the ambassador as saying there was one injured person in

# Chamber of Industry chief sees major shortcomings in draft budget

## Abu Hassan, in memo to House committee, asserts draft budget does not reflect reality on ground

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry has strongly criticised the government's 1997 draft budget and urged a comprehensive review of the country's fiscal and planning policies.

In a memorandum sent to the Lower House of Parliament two days ago, the president of the chamber, Khalid Abu Hassan, said the 1997 draft budget was not fundamentally different from previous ones, especially since the recurrent expenditures will grow by 21 per cent.

"At a time when the political and economic guidelines of the budget speak about the principles of privatisation and integration by the public and private sectors, which in turn mean reducing taxes and consequently government revenues in favour of increasing national savings and strengthening private investments, we are struck by the percentage of growth in recurrent expenditures," the memo said.

By estimating recurrent spending at JD1,481 million in 1997 compared to JD1,220.4 million in 1996, the growth would be 21 per cent at a time when the estimated gross domestic product will grow by only 6.5 per cent at fixed prices.

"This situation," Mr. Abu Hassan pointed out in his memorandum, "would naturally result in very limited national financial resources being directed towards productive investments."

This calls for advancing the role of the private sector in a more comprehensive way along with preparing the legislations and regulations that would encourage the private sector to assume wider economic and social responsibilities.

Mr. Abu Hassan listed what he said were impediments and obstacles in the way of increasing development and economic planning.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, these include unsound monetary policies, the multiplicity of supervising departments, stifling bureaucracy, the lack of consultation and coordination with the private sector on economic legislation and international agreements, the deterioration in professional and administrative skills, legal instability, delay in introducing legal reform, and competition from neighbouring countries which offer their industries incentives that the Jordanian industry does not enjoy.

Mr. Abu Hassan attacked the country's monetary policies and what he sees as the lack of economic planning as impediments to economic growth.

"We've stopped economic planning," Mr. Abu Hassan told the Jordan Times. "The only planning we have is pursuing the International Monetary Fund's economic reform programme which is leading us to a recession with grave social consequences."

Mr. Abu Hassan said many economic decisions represent "personal views" and are not based on solid research that takes note of the views of the private sector.

Mr. Abu Hassan criticised the high interest rates, which, he said, negatively affect investment activities in the country. He also said that the continued issuance of certificate of deposits decreases liquidity in the market.

He said the limited availability of water, the limited access to external markets and the marketing bottlenecks were among the many problems that have caused problems for farmers.

He said the transportation sector was in retreat with the number of trucks declining from 7,100 in 1990 to less than 5,800 in 1996 due to high tariffs and fees.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the construction sector had retreated both in number of operators and in size.

He highlighted the plight of the commercial sector by referring to the rising number of returned (bounced

(Continued on page 7)



## Iran 'impatiently' awaiting results of Saudi blast probe

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is "impatiently" awaiting the results of investigations into the June anti-U.S. bombing in Saudi Arabia so that it can be cleared of blame, Iranian deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki said Wednesday.

Mr. Maleki told a press conference here that his country "strongly denies" any role in the June 25 attack near the eastern city of Dhahran that killed 19 U.S. air force personnel.

"We hope the information behind the Dhahran incident is revealed by next week to determine what went on behind the curtain," he said. "As we are sure of ourselves, we will wait impatiently for the results."

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz said Tuesday that his country would soon disclose the full results of its investigation into the bombing.

"Only Saudi authorities and their security agencies, and nobody else, know the whole truth, in all its details, about this bombing. Any information or reports from sources which are not from Saudi Arabia are untrue and unreliable," he said, following U.S. news-

paper reports that Iran was behind the June 25 attack.

The Los Angeles Times reported last week that planning was underway for possible military retaliation against Iran if Washington concludes that Tehran was involved in the bombing of the U.S. military housing complex.

But the U.S. Defence Department said it was "premature" to talk about retaliation against Iran for the bombing until the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concludes its probe.

According to the Washington Post, Saudi Arabia has given the U.S. government evidence that the bombing was carried out by Saudi militants trained and backed by Iran.

The Iranian official ruled out the chances of a conflict between Iran and the United States over the Dhahran bombing. "At this stage I don't think there are any risks," he said.

Mr. Maleki also welcomed the comments from the Saudi interior minister, saying they exonerated his country from any guilt. "We wish for relations with Riyadh at the highest levels," he said.

## Iranian parliament studying review of ties with Germany

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament is studying reviewing relations with Germany after German prosecutors accused Tehran of involvement in the 1992 murder of four Iranian opposition figures in Berlin. Iran's official IRNA news agency said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was summoned to the parliament's foreign affairs sub-committee on Tuesday to explain the "various dimensions" of Tehran-Bonn relations, it said.

The parliament issued a statement later saying it had asked the government to re-examine certain German behaviour judged here as hostile to Iran and to submit a report to the parliament in two months.

Among them are the presence of Iranian "terrorist" opposition figures in Germany and Bonn's refusal to hand them over to Tehran, and Germany's alleged supply of weapons of mass destruction to Iraq during the latter's 1980-1988 war against Iran.

The assembly also raised the issue of "racism in Germany against Iranian

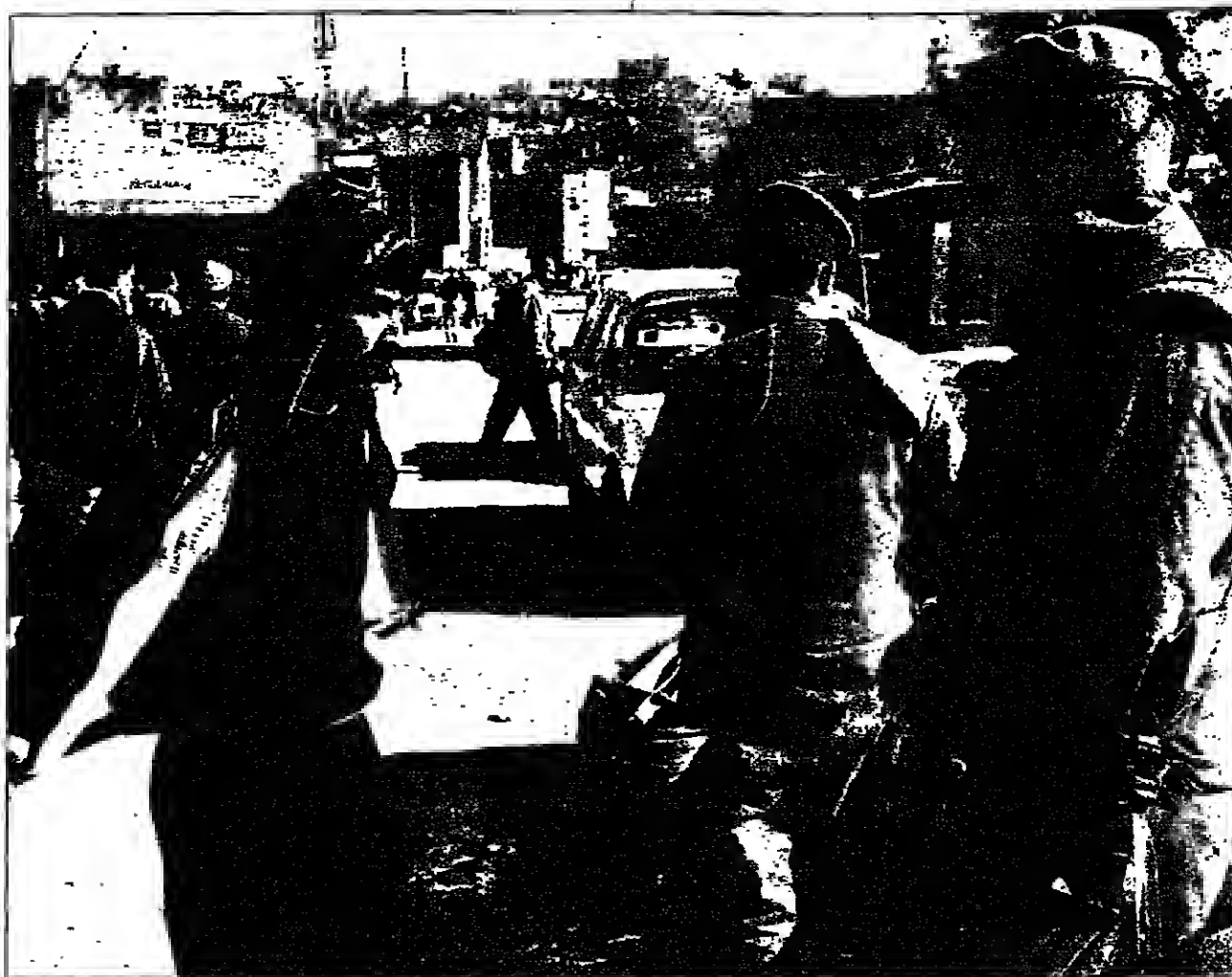
nationals." Germany's "failure to honour" contracts with Iran, including the refusal to complete a civilian nuclear power plant in the southern port of Bushehr.

"After receiving the government report, the parliament will review the trend of future relations with Bonn," the statement said, cited by IRNA.

Tehran is weighing measures against Germany since German federal prosecutors accused Iranian leaders last month of ordering the assassination of four Iranian Kurdish opposition leaders in a Berlin restaurant in September 1992.

Thousands of Iranian soldiers subjected to chemical attacks during the war with Iraq have been encouraged to sue Germany for allegedly helping Baghdad to develop such weapons.

Bonn has denied any military assistance to Iraq. Germany is Iran's top trade partner and is opposed to U.S. efforts to isolate the Islamic republic on terrorism charges.



A Palestinian man holds open his jacket to show he is not concealing weapons as he is stopped and questioned by an Israeli soldier in the centre of Hebron on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

## Arab Israeli lawmaker backs Hebron students

HEBRON (AP) — Palestinian students held makeshift classes for a second day outside the Islamic University on Wednesday to protest against the school's closure by the Israeli army 10 months ago.

Two Arab members of Israel's Knesset toured the closed campus and urged students to keep up the protests until Israel permits studies to resume.

Legislator Taleb Al Sanaa said he had been told by officials in Israel's defence ministry that the university's reopening was linked

to an Israeli troop redeployment in the city.

Negotiations on an Israeli troop pullback in Hebron are deadlocked, and no date for redeployment has been set, Mr. Sanaa said. Israel had no right to hold up the opening of the university, he said.

"This is political blackmail on the Palestinian National Authority," Mr. Sanaa told some 70 students who attended makeshift classes outside the university as Israeli soldiers watched.

Students tied a blackboard to a utility pole, then sat down in the street and

took notes as a math professor taught statistics.

The class was more a show of solidarity than a learning experience, said Feras Itmasi, a 20-year-old business student.

"We are students of peace, not students of war," he said.

Mr. Sanaa said Israel had no right to prevent Palestinians from attending university. "Just as Israeli students have a right to education, you also have this right," he said.

Mr. Sanaa invited student representatives and univer-

sity administrators to visit Israel's parliament next Wednesday, saying that he would bring up the future of the university in the plenum.

Israel closed the Islamic university and several other West Bank colleges in March, following four suicide bombings by militants in Israel.

The Israeli army said the colleges were strongholds of militants. Under the closure, order, studies at the Islamic University will not be allowed to resume before March 1997.

## Ciller, Chernomyrdin discuss Chechnya, Cyprus

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held talks here Wednesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, covering energy-cooperation and the Chechnya and Cyprus problems. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Both sides called for "strict adherence to the territorial integrity of all states in the Black Sea region" during the one and a half hour talks. Mrs. Ciller told reporters later.

She stressed that Turkey "has always respected Russia's territorial integrity and continues to pursue that principle."

Mrs. Ciller's trip comes in the wake of the 21-month conflict in Chechnya, during which Moscow accused Ankara of backing the Chechen separatists fighting for the independence of their north Caucasus republic.

Russia alleged that arms were shipped from Turkey to Chechnya during the war, but Ankara rejected the charges.

On the Cyprus problem, Mrs. Ciller said that "recently the positions of Russia and Turkey have come much closer."

Diplomats said Mrs. Ciller was likely to press Russia to reject a request by the Greek-Cypriot authorities to buy Russian-made S-300 anti-aircraft missiles.

In August the Turkish-Cypriot leadership urged Russia not to go through with a sale of 50 modern tanks to the Greek-Cypriot government, but the first deliveries took place in October.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in response to a coup in Nicosia backed by the Greek military junta.

The Turkish-Cypriot leadership in the north declared a

breakaway republic in 1983 but the entity is only recognised by Ankara which maintains 35,000 troops there.

Mrs. Ciller and Chernomyrdin also discussed plans to boost cooperation in the energy sector, notably joint gas projects. ITAR-TASS reported.

### Turkey condemned for torturing Kurd

The European Court on Human Rights ruled Wednesday that Turkey was guilty of torture over the case of a Kurd mistreated in a Turkish police station, a statement said.

The Strasbourg-based court ordered Ankara to pay 4.28 million Turkish lira (about \$40,000) compensation to the father of the victim Zeki Aksoy, who has since died.

The compensation had been fixed "with regard to the extreme seriousness of the violations" of the European Convention on Human rights, it said, awarding costs of £20,710 pounds Sterling (about \$35,000).

Aksoy was detained for 14 days in December 1992 in a police station at Kiziltepe. He said he was stripped of his clothes and hung up by his arms, suffering paralysis as a result.

"This treatment is of such a serious nature that it can only be qualified as 'torture,'" said the statement by the Council of Europe, of which the court on human rights is the judicial arm.

Aksoy was murdered in April 1994. The Turkish government accused the main Kurdish militant group the PKK of responsibility, while Aksoy's family alleged that it was a result of his legal action before the Strasbourg court.

## Egyptian accused of spying in exchange for 'cheap' sex

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian authorities on Wednesday remanded into custody for an additional 45 days Egyptian national Emad Ismail, who is accused of spying for Israel to satisfy "cheap" sexual needs.

"Emad Ismail sold his homeland to satisfy his cheap sexual desires," the president of the prosecution of the state security court Hisham Badawi said.

Mr. Ismail pleaded not guilty.

He is accused of spying on behalf of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency along with an Arab Israeli national, Azzam Azzam.

Two Arab Israeli women — Zahra Yussef Jeris and Mona Ahmad Shawahna — are also accused of having recruited Mr. Ismail during trips to Israel and Jordan, according to Egyptian judicial sources.

The two were said to be employed by the Ithine textile firm in Israel's northern Galilee region.

"The file is full of proof and overwhelming testimony, including his own in which he admits having spied for Israel and having received money for cooperating with Israeli agents," Mr. Badawi said.

Mr. Ismail's lawyer, Gamal Suleiman, said that "if the investigation proves his guilt I will back the prosecution."

"If he is really a spy then I will certainly not defend him," Mr. Suleiman told AFP.

Mr. Ismail who earlier tried to cover his face with both hands to hide from press photographers shot back and said: "You are lying."

"I am the only who informed the authorities on Oct. 19 in Alexandria of the existence of an Israeli spying ring in which Azzam Azzam

is involved," Mr. Ismail said.

Mr. Azzam was arrested on Nov. 6 four days after the arrest of Mr. Ismail and was remanded into custody for 45 days on Nov. 18. Both men worked for the Israeli textile firm Tifon in Egypt.

The indictment against Mr. Azzam and Mr. Ismail is due to be made public soon.

But an Egyptian investigator told journalists here acknowledged that Mr. Ismail had informed the authorities four days before his arrest "that he had met an Israeli woman who was giving him a hot pursuit. Nothing else."

"He had nevertheless started supplying information on the Egyptian economy to Israeli agents and could have been useful for him because he was to start his military service next year," the investigator said.

"This information was secret but that is not the point."

"The important thing is that he accepted to cooperate with Israeli agents and he was recruited (by the Mossad)," the investigator added.

The authorities have secured four-taped telephone conversations between Ismail and the Israeli woman Zahra Jeris which they hold as "proof" against the 24-year-old Egyptian man, he added.

Mr. Ismail's mother was present in court on Wednesday holding back her tears. "Leave me alone," she shouted to a group of journalists who assailed her with questions about her son, as she tried to leave the building.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy have protested to Egypt over Mr. Azzam's arrest and insisted he worked for an Israeli intelligence agency.

## Egypt court jails 2 ex-editors

CAIRO (AP) — The Cairo criminal court has found the former editors of two opposition newspapers guilty of libel for publishing stories alleging corruption by a former government minister.

Mustafa Bakry and his brother, Mahmoud, said Wednesday they would appeal the decision along with court-imposed prison sentences.

The court ruled Tuesday that the former editors had libelled Mohammed Ali Mahgoub, who previously served as Egypt's minister of religious endowments, and sentenced both men to one year in jail.

The court also sentenced Mustafa Bakry to an additional year in prison in a second, related suit that was tried concurrently.

Mustafa Bakry was editor of the opposition Al Ahrar

newspaper, and his brother was editor of Al Ahrar's sister paper, Voice of Helwan. Bakry was fired in August by the Liberal Party, which owns the daily, and his brother was sacked at the same time.

They were fired after Al Ahrar ran a false story claiming Jihan Sadat, widow of President Anwar Sadat, had a child in the United States fathered by a young American. The Sadat family sued the paper over the story.

Mr. Mahgoub brought four separate cases against the Bakry brothers. A court ordered them to pay a fine of \$5,800 in one ruling and found them innocent in a second.

Mr. Mahgoub was angered over articles that accused him of corruption, including the alleged transfer of state-owned apartments to relatives and use of government money for campaign.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Iris & Ovide and the Gang  
14:35 Out of This World (comedy)  
15:00 Covington Cross  
15:30 Film: Rascals & Robbers  
17:00 News Flash  
17:02 Continuation of Film  
17:30 Le Monde Est à Vous  
19:00 Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Atomes  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 Pacific Station (Comedy)  
20:00 The American Chart Show  
20:30 Material World  
21:10 Kung Fu  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Feature: "Mr. Destiny"  
23:59 Taratata

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:03 Fajr  
06:25 Sunrise  
11:32 Dhuhr  
14:16 Asr  
16:39 Maghreb  
18:02 Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweith. Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
77175.

Armenian International Church  
Tel. 827126.

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295.

English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
It will be relatively cold at night and sunny during the day with southeasterly moderate winds. In the Gulf of Aqaba, it will be sunny with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Amman ..... 05/15

Aqaba ..... 11/25

Deserts ..... 03/16

Jordan Valley ..... 11/24

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 16, Aqaba 22 Humidi-

ty readings: Amman 51 per cent.

Aqaba 39 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

ANMAN:

Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 675485

Dr. Khalid Al Jundi ..... 740740

Dr. Yousef Rashid ..... 896301

Dr. Jim's Abu Diab ..... 758458

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336

Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

##### IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852

Al Quds pharmacy ..... 1

##### ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halaseh ..... 982799

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

##### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 690100

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200

##### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381332

Khalidi Maternity ..... 642816

Akileh Maternity ..... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital

..... 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahl, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 777101/3

Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26

Army, Marfa ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09/983323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09/980560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 09/990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital ..... 02/275555

Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 02/272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... 02/247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03/314111

##### FOR THE TRAVELLER

##### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport

Tel. 08/53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08/53250.

##### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights



## Queen attends fund-raising dinner for student-exchange programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended a fund-raising dinner to benefit the first educational exchange programme for Jordanian high school students organised by The Friendship Force in Atlanta, Georgia which is also developing a programme that will enable university students from the two countries to participate in exchange visits, a Royal Court statement said.

Last April, the Queen and Minister of Education Munther Masri met with a delegation from the group to launch American-Jordanian exchanges between the countries' universities and schools.

In her remarks, the Queen stated that young people in the Middle East are "our future leaders, who will play an important role in shaping the destiny of the region and determining its

relationship with the larger world." She added that "our children, who will benefit from these educational and inter-cultural exchanges, will also enrich them by contributing a special perspective on the history and challenges of our region."

Rosalynn Carter said that she "has seen what can happen when people learn about each other and break down barriers" and added that "it would be a wonderful opportunity for our people to go to Jordan and discover first hand how wonderful the people are there."

The Friendship Force, established in 1977 by then President Jimmy Carter, his wife Rosalynn Carter and Mr. Wayne Smith, is an international organisation that plans and oversees international "home-stays, in which participants travel as their countries' "unofficial" ambassadors, live

with their hosts and take part in the local community's daily life, the statement said.

The organisation's programmes, in which nearly half a million volunteer ambassadors and hosts from 60 countries have participated, include international exchanges between youth groups, university faculty members and other professionals. There are a total of 350 clubs around the world, including their newest chapter in Jordan.

Honorary Chair of the Friendship Force Rosalynn Carter, President of the Friendship Force Wayne Smith, member of the International Board of Advisors Ted Turner and his wife actress and activist Jane Fonda attended the dinner.

## Local firms awarded contracts for housing project worth JD 430,000

AMMAN (Petra) — Two local firms have won contracts from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) to carry out an infrastructure project for a housing estate in Mafrqa as well as an expansion of the Maan Housing Estate, at a total cost of JD 430,000.

HUDC Director General Yousef Hiyasat, who signed the agreements with the two company managers, said that the two projects entail preparing 242 plots of land for residential and commercial purposes.

In the Mafrqa estate, 151 plots will be organised over 89 dunums of land within one year at the cost of JD 270,000 per project. The work involves opening roads over a 15,450 square metre area and constructing water, electricity and telephone networks as well as a car park and public gardens.

The expansion of the Maan estate entails apportioning 91 plots of land for residential

and commercial purposes on 38 dunums of land within 240 days at the overall estimated cost of JD 160,000.

The expansion project involves laying an infrastructure such as roads, water, sewerage, electricity and telephone networks in addition to creating a car park and a public garden.

Once the infrastructure work on both projects has been completed the plots of land will be offered to the chosen beneficiaries to build personal homes.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the beneficiaries, who have been saving with the HUDC, will be offered land at reduced cost while those who have chosen to utilise their plots for commercial purposes will be offered the land at market prices. He said that only limited income groups can benefit from residential plots and confirmed that the public can apply for these plots within two months time.

## Court sentences man to life term

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Criminal Court sentenced a 38-year-old man to life imprisonment with hard labour, after he was found guilty of murdering an Iraqi national in the Azraq area last year.

The court tribunal comprised of Justices Abdul Rahman Tawfiq, Miftah Mubaidin and Ismael Hmouz, found Awad Hassan guilty of murdering and attempting to rob Ghazi Shueib Mohammad, 61, in a farm near Al Azraq-Safawi Highway on July 18, 1995.

According to the prosecution, the victim, who was residing in Jamil Hotel in Zarqa for four months prior to the incident, met with the defendant one month before the crime.

"The defendant asked Mr. Mohammad to travel with him to the Jordanian-Iraqi border to purchase some merchandise and goods for business and the victim agreed," court transcripts said.

On the morning of the incident, the two headed from Azraq towards Iraq in the defendant's car, the court documents stated.

While the victim was sleeping in the vehicle, the court papers said, Mr. Hassan conceived of robbing Mr. Mohammad, mistakenly believing that he was carrying a large amount of money.

"The defendant drew a cutter he was keeping in his car's glove compartment and stabbed the victim in the waist several times while he slept," the court transcripts said.

According to these transcripts, the defendant then threw Mr. Mohammad outside the car, smashed his head with a sharp object, searched his pockets and the bag he was carrying, but found no money.

"[The victim] was wearing a valuable watch and ring, but I did not steal them, that authorities would not think that theft was the motive, and suspect me," Mr. Hassan told the authorities after he was apprehended, 20 days following the

incident.

The court stated that it relied on the defendant's own testimony in ruling in the case and that it was parallel with the prosecution evidence.

In addition, the court relied on testimonies of hotel owner Jamil Sa'ed Jamil, who was confirmed to be the last person to see the victim and suspect together.

Mr. Mohammad, according to the prosecution, was temporarily residing in Jordan waiting for completion of his papers in order to immigrate to Sweden, where his wife and children, all Swedish nationals, lived.

In his closing argument last week, Mr. Hassan's defence attorney claimed his client's innocence, charging that he was framed by security officers. Criminal Court Prosecutor Ali Abu Hjeleh had sought the death penalty.

The verdict will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

## Seminar prepares women to enter the political arena

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

HASHEMI SHEMALI — Building bridges with respective constituencies and overcoming prejudice, emerged as the main challenges facing Jordanian women in the political arena upon the conclusion of a five-day workshop entitled "Preparing Campaign Teams."

"Think of what is important to your potential voters and make it the basis of your programme and the focus of your speeches," said British journalist, broadcaster and women's development issues advisor, Leslie Abdella. Together with Ms. Abdella, who was also conferred the title of the 1996 United Kingdom (U.K.) Woman of Europe Award and founder of the non party-affiliated "300 group," aimed at electing more women in the British parliament, two other experts from the U.K. came here to train more than 60 women, five from each of Jordan's 12 governorates, to run election campaigns as candidates, candidate aides and press officers.

The British training team included

Federal Campaigns, Elections and Press Officer with the Liberal Democrats Candy Pieny and Council Support Officer for the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and prospective parliamentary candidate Jackie Ballard.

At a time in which women worldwide are proving themselves increasingly successful and reaching key positions once deemed prohibitive in business, politics and science, Jordanian women seem determined not to be left behind.

"Not only they are fully aware of national, regional and global issues such as unemployment, water, peace and the environment, but they are also very keen, enthusiastic and determined" to gain a more effective role in politics and decision-making, was the manner in which Ms. Leslie described workshop participants.

"The men in my family do not support my political involvement, but I will run for Parliament when I turn 30 (the eligible age in Jordan) and they will change their minds when they see the positive results for all," 25-year-old Amal from Tafleh told the Jordan

Times. "Islam upholds women's rights," said Amal, who works as a director in a youth centre and runs a cultural centre in her hometown. "People who are against the active participation of women in politics have not understood Islam," she summarised.

"More women means more democracy," said Fatmeh, also from Tafleh, who is a prospective candidate with the Al Ahd party in the November 1997 general elections.

"We are going to prove that women can be responsible not only for their children and household, but for their communities as well," stated Yusrieh from Jerash, a wife and a mother as well as a public sector employee.

The workshop, which closed yesterday and was organised by the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) in cooperation with the British embassy and the British Council in Amman, was aimed at training potential women candidates to handle all aspects of an election campaign.

From the criteria to choose campaign team members and the organisation of a grass-roots campaign, to

how to deal with the media and prepare press releases and effective television and radio presentations, the seminar provided participants with an essential "candidate's survival kit."

"We have learnt a lot, especially in terms of cooperation and coordination among ourselves," said Yusrieh.

While the debate over the election law, slated for passage before the end of the current legislature, heats up and the country debates possible ways to overcome tribalism, women propose themselves as a means to stem tribal votes.

"Here women are supporting women," regardless of their tribe or their family, Ms. Abdella said.

Her advice to Jordanian women candidates in view of February's municipal elections and November's general elections?

"Listen to the voters and listen to each other," Ms. Abdella recommended.

That's something not only women candidates should take into consideration.

## "Public awareness progress in birth spacing project"

By Sacha Baggili and Tanya Habbjoua  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Birth Spacing Project (JBSP) has made "remarkable progress" in promoting greater awareness of the availability and benefits of contraceptive products in the Kingdom over this past year, Project Manager Bader Rashid told the Jordan Times.

Since 1995, the project, partially funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, has worked in promoting the concept of birth spacing through a series of seminars, educating pharmacists and doctors on contraceptive products and their responsible distribution and sale and ensuring the availability of accurate advice for women who have been encouraged to take part in JBSP workshops held throughout the Kingdom.

A total of 35 seminars training over 1,500 pharmacists, 22 seminars training over 300 doctors and 14 workshops for women's groups such as the Women's Union, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAFSD) have been held since the project was relaunched in 1995.

According to Mr. Rashid, attendance at such seminars has soared this year, indicating the project's growing success.

"On Saturday, 65 pharmacists and assistant pharmacists attended the latest seminar in Amman," he said, "which was a great contrast to the initial low attendance rates at JBSP seminars and workshops."

"In 1996 far greater numbers of people have been attending our seminars, there has been greater interaction amongst doctors and pharmacists with the project generally and much evidence of greater awareness of the importance of birth spacing amongst doctors, pharmacists and women's groups," he continued.

In cooperation with the JBSP, during 1996, the QAFSD organised sessions in social development centres in Amman, Aqaba, Karak, Ma'an, Zarqa and Tafleh, to advise on and prescribe different birth spacing methods and products.

"The results (of such sessions) have been very positive and encouraging and participants of the JBSP workshops have taken very active roles in these discussions," Hasan Osta of the QAFSD told the Jordan Times.

"Every woman with whom I have spoken desires access to contraception and agrees upon

the necessity of birth spacing," said Mageda Radwan, advisor to the JBSP.

But pharmacist Salah Najar stated that in his experience attitudes towards promotion of contraceptive products vary. "Some believe that it is an evil from the West to limit the number of Arabs," he said.

In response to this assertion, Mr. Rashid said that through its workshops this year, the JBSP has been successful in convincing women that this particular project does not aim to dictate "the number of children a woman should have, but encourages a minimum two-year gap between births."

Birth spacing lowers infant mortality rates and improves the chances of better health for the potential child by allowing, amongst other things, a higher quality of breast-feeding.

In evidence of the positive response amongst Jordanian women to the work of the JBSP this year, Mr. Osta stated that participants in workshops held at the Queen Alia Fund's community development centres throughout the country, including rural leaders, members of local women's committees and members of local voluntary organisations, have themselves called for "further focus on the birth spacing issue through male involvement in the awareness promotion programmes, more awareness activities to cover all regions and reach greater numbers of women and the dissemination of knowledge through brochures and other simple publications." In 1992, infant mortality was reported to be 49 deaths per 1,000 live births and 53% of children were born within two years of the last birth, according to a Jordan demographic health survey.

Mr. Rashid stated his hopes that the success of the JBSP this year will facilitate improvements in this situation and that such an improvement will become evident in future statistics.

This year the JBSP has also been running a television advertising campaign to acquaint the public with its campaign slogan, a couple enclosed in a blue circle, which can be spotted in the windows of participating pharmacies able to advise consumers on contraceptive products and of doctors in their area who have taken part in the JBSP programme.

Two more training sessions for pharmacists, one in the Jordan Valley and one in the south of Jordan will conclude the JBSP's work for 1996.

## Modifying pedagogical instruction in the face of rapid global change — UNESCO

By Anca de Maio  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The conclusion of UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (IBE) 1996 Conference on Education, disseminated within the 43rd World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET), in progress in Amman, demonstrates that universal education in general faces a number of problems that can no longer be solved unless new principles and approaches are adopted.

Referring to "the role of teachers in a changing world," UNESCO speaker, Juan Carlos Tedesco, the director of IBE, stated that "it is no longer possible to have a low-cost education" and that "the discrepancy between the rhetorical or symbolic recognition of teachers' importance and the absence of real political and financial measures" can no longer be accepted.

Experience of the last few decades' show that considering teachers "victims of the system" or "culprits accused for low education achievements" is not a productive approach.

The teachers of the 21st century are envisioned to be "guides, models and ref-

erence points in the educational process" performed in a stimulating environment (i.e. adequate well-equipped schools).

The reshuffling of teachers' status is a complex issue and demands specific readings in function of local conditions, given variations in terms of professional and social prestige. In many countries the quantitative request for teachers has entailed a loss of qualitative prestige and affects in particular primary education. In several African countries the preparation of a primary school teacher is limited to a few years of basic school.

Discussing the three-step process of creating a teacher, Mr. Tedesco has outlined problems emerging from each, as well as possible strategies of correction. Choice of profession, pre-service training and professional performance reveal a number of universally true aspects, which in certain specific contexts (including Jordan), are more accentuated.

There is a general recognition that the teaching profession is not attracting the most intellectually and pedagogically talented persons of any given society. In order to recruit persons

with the intellectual qualifications and personal qualities, economic and social incentives should be offered, Mr. Tedesco stated.

Pre-service training does not correspond to actual demands, he stressed. Sometimes, academic training and pedagogical formation are not properly articulated. The increase of training years alone has not been proven sufficient. A special training is necessary for teachers performing in poor, marginal or areas of conflict.

The UNESCO strategic priorities underlined by Mr. Tedesco include pedagogical and special training, autonomous educational institutions and alternatives to criticised pedagogical methods and practices, with a view to developing teaching as "learning to learn" (i.e. "the capacity to transfer cognitive processes" rather than mere information).

As for professional performance, a teacher's first employment, whose impact is so decisive for his further professional development, is associated with minimal remuneration and difficult conditions in marginal and poor areas, the UNESCO speaker pointed out. Individualism and isola-

tion represent an obstacle in teacher's development of common strategies and accumulation of experience, he added. Moreover scepticism to innovation (typical of educational leaders) and rigidity in the public sector obstruct teachers' professional development. Possible solutions such as devising salary policies for teams and not for individuals, and providing incentives for education administrators and teachers performing in difficult conditions and areas, must be translated into specific measures corresponding to the local needs of each country, he said.

The introduction of new informational technologies with all their positive and negative impacts on the educational process and social life should be considered attentively so as to define a wise strategy of computing incorporation in a democratic educational system. Although the cost of this operation (initial investment as well as maintenance and up-dating expenditure) limits the access of less developed country to informational technology, the education of the 21st century must be universally accepted as a

higher-cost education. Yet unlimited informational accessibility is not the only key to knowledge, and teachers' task to build up human personalities will never be replaced by instruments.

The issue of the material situation of teachers has multiple facets, explained Mr. Tedesco: an augmentation of teachers' salaries in mass is not a guarantee of educational improvement. UNESCO's recommendation to improve education budgets refers to several items and takes into account complex criteria such as professional training (academic and pedagogical), experience, working conditions, etc. The UNESCO priorities in salary amelioration are oriented to the categories of teachers performing in primary schools and in poor, rural and marginal areas. People with highly intellectual and pedagogical capacities should be encouraged to embrace the teaching profession by offering them material guarantees for a higher social status. Mr. Tedesco concluded, after the determined interventions of numerous participants in favour of unconditional salary increase.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILMS

- \* "Asterix Chez les Bretons" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- \* "Como Agua para Chocolate" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- \* "Raphael" Legend and Legacy" (pt. 2) (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Shami) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- \* "L'Espoir" (the hope) — a film in French in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the death of André Malraux, on Friday, Dec. 20, at Philadelphia Cinema at 8:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Special show and sale of Christmas crafts at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Alaydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 644555), until Dec. 31.
- \* Christmas special at the Jordan River Designs showroom (hand-made ornaments and decorations), Jabal Amman, First Circle (Tel. 613081/2), until Dec. 31.
- \* Works by Spanish painter Clara Amado at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman

## BANI HAMIDA

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Special Issue No. 24 / 96 in the Occasion of New Year ( 97 )

# Happy New Year 1997

# 150,000

2nd Prize 20 000 Dinar

3rd Prize 10 000 Dinar      4th Prize 8000 Dinar

5th Prize 5000 Dinar      6th Prize 4000 Dinar

7th Prize 3000 Dinar      8th Prize 2000 Dinar

Total Prizes 400 000 Dinar

Drawing Date 2 / 1 / 1997

General Union Of Voluntary Societies

Ticket Price 10 J.D



## Serbian protests continue despite Milosevic concessions

BELGRADE (AFP) — Serbia's opposition kept up pressure on President Slobodan Milosevic over the annulment of local election results, sidestepping government concessions and announcing more street protests Wednesday.

Leaders of the student and main opposition movements said further protests would go ahead despite a pledge by Mr. Milosevic Tuesday to respect the wishes of the electorate.

Earlier Tuesday, a court overturned a win by the ruling Socialist Party in a town near Belgrade, ordering a reassessment of the results in a move likely meaning it will revert to opposition control.

It was the second such court ruling in two days, and was followed later by a similar verdict over a neighbourhood of Belgrade which the Socialists have pledged to appeal.

But the hints of detente did not prevent another 70,000 demonstrators from taking their street demonstrations into a fifth week Tuesday, calling for all the results to be recognised.

The opposition Together Coalition won 15 of Serbia's 18 biggest towns in the Nov. 17 municipal polls, but the results were annulled on appeal by the Socialists.

Another round of voting was held, boycotted by the opposition, which gave Mr. Milosevic's party the whip hand again. Since then the anti-government wave of protests has drawn crowds of up to 200,000 in Belgrade.

For the first time since the protests began, state-run television showed several thousands people rallying in support of Mr. Milosevic in the eastern town of Majdanpek late Tuesday.

They brandished portraits of the president and banners declaring long live Serbia and long live Slobodan.

Similar pro-government rallies were announced for Wednesday in a number of smaller Serbian towns where the Socialists won control in the elections.

The pledge to respect voters' wishes came as Mr. Milosevic met a delegation of students, who have held separate protests to the main opposition body.

The student leaders said his promise referred only to Nis, Serbia's second city, but that they had urged him to recognise the results in all towns.

A court in Nis has ordered the Electoral Commission to look again at how 26 seats were awarded to the Socialists despite being won by the opposition.

Official television showed Mr. Milosevic meeting three student leaders. He told them that any complaints over last month's elections would have to be "brought out into the open."

However he criticised opposition leaders for seeking outside help, saying Serbia's problems had to be sorted out from within.

"Serbia will not be controlled by foreign hands. We are the masters in Serbia and we must solve our problems through our own institutions," he said.

Opposition leaders addressing Tuesday's crowds were upbeat.

"We will not stop our protests until we get that which belongs to us," said Zoran Djindjic. "During this month of protest ... we have

established new rules of political behaviour in Serbia which have to be accepted by everyone."

"This is a protest against this whole system and its leader. The system has to be changed and he (Milosevic) must go," added Vuk Draskovic.

In Vienna, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said it would send a mission to Serbia, led by former Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, to review the disputed results.

Mr. Milosevic invited the OSCE to send mediators to Belgrade to find a way out of the stalemate created by the annulment.

The Together Coalition said it "will welcome the OSCE mission," but was suspicious over the OSCE team's mandate, saying it wanted a legal team rather than a political one.

Meanwhile a delegation of 30 students from Kragujevac, some 120 kilometres from Belgrade, announced they were starting a march to the Serbian capital to try to meet Mr. Milosevic.



Serbian workers shout in front of the parliament building in Belgrade Tuesday as the workers union joined the daily anti-government protests in the Yugoslav capital (AFP photo)

## NATO ministers want new warcrimes police in Bosnia

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO defence ministers have agreed that a new international police force is needed in Bosnia to capture indicted war criminals for trial in the Hague, a senior U.S. defence official said Wednesday.

"There is broad agreement in principle to do this," the official said after Defence Secretary William Perry met French Defence Minister Charles Millon and then the defence ministers of the Netherlands, Norway and Denmark Wednesday morning.

But the official added: "There isn't yet a specific plan on how to march forward."

The official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters the police force could operate either directly under the U.N. Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, which is based in the Hague, or under the auspices of the European Union or the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

"What the defence ministers are looking for now is what you would call it, who would run it, how it would

be organised, who would contribute to it," the official said.

The official stressed as NATO defence ministers were winding up a two-day meeting on Bosnia and other issues, that they agreed that a new 30,000-member military Stabilisation Force (SFOR) being sent to Bosnia for 18 months to replace the current peacekeeping force there should not be given the task of arresting indicted war criminals.

But SFOR could coordinate closely with the police force, he said.

The official said there was deep concern that only seven out of about 80 suspected war criminals had been captured in the past year and there was broad agreement that those indicted should be captured and tried under the Dayton peace accords.

The official said Mr. Millon and Mr. Perry met for about 35 minutes and also discussed but reached no agreement on a rift between Washington and Paris over U.S. refusal to bow to a French demand that the United States turn

over command of NATO forces in Southern Europe to a European officer.

The job is traditionally held by an American officer and the United States says it should remain that way because the preponderance of allied forces in the region, including the U.S. Sixth Fleet, are American.

But the official said there was agreement by both Mr. Millon and at the subsequent meeting with the ministers of the Netherlands, Norway and Denmark that an enhanced police force was the way to go after indicted war criminals.

"The French said that they already had 100 gendarmes (police) in the area. They did not say that they would increase them, but the implication was that they might," he told reporters.

"In the meeting with the Dutch, the Norwegian and the Danish defence ministers there was agreement on the part of the Europeans that this police force should not be under the U.N. It should be under either the European Union or the OSCE, that it should be primarily a European responsibility," he added.

## Three Bosnian Muslim houses dynamited in Croat territory

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Three Muslim-owned houses were dynamited at the weekend in a southern Bosnian town under Croat control, a U.N. spokesman said in Sarajevo Wednesday.

Alexander Ivanko said the destruction of the homes in the town of Capljina were the latest in a series of explosions in Bosnian Croat areas.

"Over the weekend, three houses previously owned by Muslims have been blown up by unknown perpetrators. This raises the total to 35 houses in the last three months," he told reporters.

Bosnia's Croats and Muslims are now officially allies in the Muslim-Croat Federation — one of the country's two entities — but tension remains from the 11 months of bitter fighting between the two sides in 1993 and 1994.

Mr. Ivanko said that the attacks were especially worrying since U.N. Police Commissioner Peter Fitzgerald had discussed the issue two weeks ago with the Federation Interior Minister Avdo Habib, a Muslim, and his Croat deputy Jozo Leutar.

"Commissioner Fitzgerald asked me to stress that if the parties cannot prevent the destruction of houses, they should at least arrest the perpetrators," he said.

"If that's not done, then the question is raised of the professional conduct of the police chiefs in these areas, and if they cannot deal with this problem they should be dismissed," the spokesman said.

The explosions came after a wave of evictions of non-Croats from the southern city of Mostar, where gangs have been throwing Muslims and Serbs onto the streets in order to take over their apartments.

Meanwhile, a threat by

the Bosnian Serbs to fight to keep Brecko highlights the importance of a town dubbed by peace mediator Richard Holbrooke as "the most explosive place in Bosnia."

Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavcic said Monday that Serb forces would defend the northern town if an international arbitration commission, which is already racked with problems, hands it to the Muslims.

"There will not be any peace, no Dayton Accord, the Serbs will fight and will defend themselves ... Brecko has been and will stay Serb," she said.

Brecko is a key town for Bosnia's Serb and Muslim communities. For the Serbs, who captured it during the war, it is the narrow link between the eastern and western parts of their territory.

For the Muslims, it offers a route for trade with Croatia and Europe. At the Dayton Peace talks last year, neither the Serbs nor the Muslims would agree to give up their claim to the town and it was decided that an arbitration commission would decide its fate. In September, Dayton architect Holbrooke called it "the most explosive place in the country ... the only place we couldn't resolve at Dayton."

Earlier this month, Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Gojko Kljickovic said the Serbs would pull out of arbitration over "irregularities," and the deadline for a decision has since been delayed from Dec. 14 to Feb. 15.

While a few Muslims have rebuilt houses in the former frontline area, controlled by the NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR), the Serbs continue to stop Muslims moving back into the town.

the U.N. says. U.S. troops at the local McGovern Base say Serbs dynamite Muslim houses at night.

"People are nervous about the bombings ... They are anxious about the arbitration decision," said Master Sergeant Cathy Wright.

In Brecko itself, a town on the Sava River which had a Muslim majority before the nearly four-year war, Serbs have erected a stone Serb Orthodox cross to signify their decision to stay.

But many are frightened. "There has been too much blood, we can't live with Muslims again," said Zelko, a 32-year-old who fled the Muslim-held central town of Travnik. "We can't share power. It can be an open town, yes, but under Serb control."

Biljana, a 17-year-old schoolgirl is one of the lucky few to have a job, working part-time in a coffee bar. "The Muslims took the city (Sarajevo)," she said. "In my opinion, we should keep this."

Finding local Muslims is harder. Only nine families stay at night in their houses near the former frontline, according to NATO.

A night-time visit to one family was interrupted by a Serb police patrol which insisted that journalists should not talk to them.

Several compromise solutions have been suggested. One is to place Brecko in the hands of the new Bosnian government which includes Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

Another is to declare it an open city, run by international supervisors.

But diplomats say the Serbs will block these proposals, fearing anything short of Serb control will allow the Muslims to re-settle there.

## Rebels reportedly kill 6 in Algiers Casbah

PARIS (R) — Muslim rebels have killed six civilians in the past week in the old heart of Algiers, the Casbah, an Algerian newspaper said Wednesday.

The Casbah is a stronghold for Muslim guerrillas. Security forces have ringed and combed its tortuous, narrow lanes many times in the past three years to try to wipe out militants.

The newspaper El Watan said that prior to the past week the Casbah had enjoyed a respite from violence since the killing of a local guerrilla leader, Amar Yacine, by security forces in March.

It said the guerrillas had been making greater efforts to control social behaviour, putting pamphlets on the walls of the Casbah banning women from leaving home without wearing Islamic dress and banning men from smoking.

Three weeks ago rebels killed one young woman and said afterwards she died because she spurned their ban on Western dress, said El Watan.

"There are always lookouts who report our gestures and acts," one Casbah resident told the newspaper.

El Watan said most residents did not dare to report violent incidents to the local police and gendarmes.

"The police station is located in a dead-end street. It will be enough to see someone there and all people suspect him as a police quisling," it added.

About 60,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

Meanwhile, Algerian newspapers and a secular opposition party Wednesday attacked the country's government for passing a law making Arabic compulsory in public life, saying this would worsen Algeria's crisis.

But a senior official said the North African country must bolster its identity through promoting Arabic or Algeria would become an unknown quantity among other nations.

The French-language daily Le Matin, summing up influential French-speaking elite in Algeria's higher economic and cultural echelons, said it agreed with those who dubbed the law a "form of terrorism" and a "willingness to divide the country."

"It is a new form of provocation which spawns fiercely another fracture in Algerian society," said the secular opposition Rally for Democracy and Culture (RCD) party.

RCD leader said Saadi won about 10 per cent of the vote in last year's presidential poll.

The government-appointed quasi-parliament, the Transitional National Council (CNT), Tuesday passed the new law banning officials from making public statements in any language but Arabic.

Under the law, officials who write or sign memos or correspondences in foreign languages can be fined up to 5,000 dinars (\$91) or up to 10,000 dinars (\$182) if they reoffend.

The measure, which results in curbing French used more easily by many government ministers and officials, was called Wednesday a "demagogic move by the French-language El Watan."

"What sort of mankind endowed with reason can imagine for one instant that public life may be totally arabised by July 1998 and university courses completely ensured in Arabic within the next four years," asked El Watan, one of Algeria's most influential daily newspapers.

## Chinese president meets future Hong Kong leader, vows support

BEIJING (R) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin Wednesday greeted future Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa with a pledge of support, saying the appointment of the tycoon turned chief executive designate marked the dawn of new era.

"Of course, I will support him," Mr. Jiang told reporters during a meeting in Beijing with Mr. Tung, who will lead the British colony after it returns to Chinese rule on July 1 next year.

"This is indeed the start of a new era," he said.

Mr. Tung, a shipping magnate who will become Hong Kong's first Chinese chief executive after more than 150 years of colonial rule in London, was in Beijing to meet senior leaders after his formal appointment Monday by Premier Li Peng.

The visit is being keenly watched by residents in the territory eager to know more about Mr. Tung's plans for his first post-colonial administration and to learn whether current senior civil servants will keep their jobs.

Mr. Tung, who has warned Hong Kong's people to be sensitive to China's sovereignty rights, has yet to give details of his plans for the post-colonial administration but has said he will discuss transition issues during his Beijing visit.

He declined to answer questions from reporters on the position of civil servants before beginning talks with Mr. Jiang in Beijing's cavernous Great Hall of the People.

It was Mr. Jiang who in January signalled that the tycoon was China's favourite for chief executive by singling him out for a warm, personal handshake at a reception in Beijing.

A 400-member, Beijing-controlled Selection Committee of Hong Kong residents last week made the choice official when a sweeping 80 per cent majority of members backed the 59-year-old tycoon.

At a meeting at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guest House, Premier Li Peng gave Tung a certificate of appointment and congratulated him on his success. "This is indeed an historic moment," Mr. Li told reporters.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Tung met Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at the guesthouse, but neither he nor Mr. Qian made any public comment.

One of Mr. Tung's first tasks in the twilight of British rule will be to put together an advisory cabinet called the executive council and to decide which senior civil servants to keep — a subject of much speculation among Hong Kong's boisterous media.

While heated interest has focused on Mr. Tung's intentions for current senior administrators, China said Tuesday that it would make the final decision on important civil servants.

"For senior officials, they need the nomination of the top administrative official and to finally obtain appointment by the central government," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said at a news briefing.

China has hailed Mr. Tung's appointment as the fruit of its principle of Hong Kong autonomy, but the selection process was dogged by protests from Democrats who accuse Beijing of using its hand-picked committee to stage-manage the choice.

Beijing's critics believe it is likely to try to control Hong Kong and its 6.3 million people from behind the scenes after the five-star Chinese flag is raised over the territory.

The Beijing-backed Selection Committee that chose Mr. Tung is now preparing for the selection Saturday of a 60-member, "provisional legislature" with which China plans to replace the existing, elected legislature on July 1.

Hong Kong's colonial Governor Chris Patten has condemned the new legislature as undemocratic and has vowed not to cooperate with it.

## N. Ireland peace process at standstill, Major says

DUNGANNON, Northern Ireland (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major acknowledged here Wednesday that the Northern Ireland peace process was stalled, but said he thought it would start moving again.

"I have often said from the outset it would be two steps forward and one step back, and I am afraid over the last few weeks we have been in the one step back mode and I very much regret that," he said on his traditional Christmas visit to Ulster.

The visit by Mr. Major, accompanied by his wife Norma, came amid growing fears that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was planning a new bombing campaign.

The multi-party talks in Belfast on the future of Northern Ireland were adjourned for the holidays.

"There is a pause in

the move forward," said Mr. Major. "But I don't think this pause will last for good."

"Providing everybody who speaks about their will to have peace means what they say then there is no reason why we cannot make progress."

Republican leaders have effectively ruled out a renewed IRA ceasefire announcement before Christmas, citing Britain's refusal to accept IRA terms for a truce which would enable Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and his negotiating team to join the talks.

"We have always known there will be some very difficult hurdles to overcome," he said. "We knew those hurdles would come at irregular intervals in the process."

"We have now hit a hurdle, but I think it is a hurdle we will be able to overcome. We have done so in the past and

I've every intention of doing so again."

Diplomatic manoeuvring was meanwhile going on among London, Dublin and Washington towards securing an agreement on Sinn Fein's involvement in the talks.

On Tuesday, U.S. President Bill Clinton called for a renewed IRA ceasefire, saying: "I want to reiterate my call for the IRA to institute a ceasefire in words as well as deeds."

"If they do that," he said as he welcomed Irish Prime Minister John Bruton to the White House. "I'm convinced that Sinn Fein will be invited to participate in the talks."

Sinn Fein was excluded from the talks that began last June because the IRA ceasefire, broken off with a bombing campaign last February after 17 months peace, had not been restored.

## Burma stripped of EU trade privileges

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Commission called Wednesday for Burma to be stripped of trade privileges currently accorded by the European Union after finding evidence of the widespread use of forced labour there.

The EU's executive arm, unanimously approved a recommendation that Burma's membership of the generalised system of preferences (GSP), which accords developing countries preferential tariffs on their exports to the EU, be suspended indefinitely.

The decision has to be ratified by EU foreign ministers. But this is seen as a formality in light to the Burmese regime's continued refusal to bow to international pressure to improve its record on human and democratic rights.

In October, the ministers banned Burma's military rulers from visiting EU countries and warned that a package of largely symbolic sanctions could be strengthened if there were any deterioration in the human rights situation there.

In a statement the ministers specifically referred to the practice of forced labour. Any EU state which wanted to oppose the suspension from the GSP would thus have to do so on political grounds rather than arguing that the allegations had not been proven.

The commission's move became inevitable last month when Burma refused entry to a independent committee of experts sent to investigate allegations that the Burmese authorities force citizens to work on government and military projects.

The committee's visit was intended to check elements of a series of testimonies on forced labour accumulated during public hearings on Burma organised in Brussels this summer.

The hearings were organised after European trade union organisations filed 42 specific complaints relating to the use of forced or child labour.

The International Congress of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in Brussels said there were 800,000 Burmese currently involved in various forms of forced labour, accounting for 10 per cent of the country's output.

"Thousands of Burmese have died after having been forcefully recruited by the army to serve as porters," ICFTU General Secretary Bill Jordan said.





Zaire's veteran president, Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife arrive at the international airport in the Zairean capital of Kinshasa Tuesday. Mr. Mobutu returned home to a rapturous welcome after four months in Europe where he had surgery for prostate cancer. Up to 20,000 people gathered at the airport to welcome home the man whose supporters describe him as the one symbol of unity in the anarchic central African nation gripped by a revolt in the east (Reuters photo)

## Zaire's rebel chief tells Mobutu to quit

KIGALI (R) — Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila demanded Wednesday that President Mobutu Sese Seko hand over power to his opposition alliance which has captured a string of major towns in eastern Zaire.

Mr. Kabila said Mr. Mobutu's return to the capital Kinshasa Tuesday after four months in Europe was laughable.

"The country is in chaos... There is no country at all. The sooner he goes the better. Mobutu should resign now and relinquish power to the alliance," Mr. Kabila told Reuters by telephone.

He said he was speaking from the eastern Zairean town of Goma which the rebels captured last month in their rout of government troops and exiled Rwandan Hutu militia.

"We are well prepared, morale of our troops is high and the population supports their liberation from slavery," he said.

"Unless he cooperates, his return makes no difference because he has failed to develop the country. Either he engages himself in negotiations with the alliance to solve the political crisis or he has to face the law of force," he added.

Huge crowds greeted Mr. Mobutu in Kinshasa on his return from cancer surgery in Switzerland.

Mr. Mobutu, who seized power in 1965, gave no indication of what he might do to prevent Zaire's disintegration but said he would devote himself to finding a "rapid and positive response."

Mr. Kabila said the rebels seized Walikale, 130 kilometres west of Goma, Monday after five hours of fierce fighting.

"Walikale has been taken," he said. "The big town, the very important mining town of Walikale is under our control."

He said Walikale had been heavily defended by Zairean troops, former Rwandan Hutu soldiers and Interahamwe militiamen, who had a leading role in the genocide of Rwanda's Tutsi minority in 1994.

Aid workers doubted Walikale had fallen, however.

"If they had taken Walikale we would have heard and we have not," said a foreign aid official who declined to be identified.

Officials said Tuesday they had received reports of fighting on the outskirts of Walikale and that access to Rwandan refugees in the Walikale area was virtually impossible.

Mr. Kabila accused the Zairean government of recruiting foreign mercenaries.

"We have seen them in Bunia and Kisangani, deployed there," he said. "There are white mercenaries and we know the nation they come from. There is an atmosphere of terror in Lubumbashi and Shaba."

The South African-based security company Executive Outcomes recently denied it had any contact with Mr. Mobutu's government.

Canadian troops in a multinational force charged with helping Rwandan refugees and Zaireans displaced by fighting in Zaire since October are pulling out of their bases in Rwanda and Uganda after a mission which barely got off the ground.

U.N. sources said between 50,000 and 100,000 mostly Rwandan refugees were sighted at Tingi-Tingi, seven kilometres from the eastern town of Lubutu, which is still in government hands. The sources said the refugees were organising themselves in camps with an internal structure similar to their camps around Goma which the refugees were forced to leave in late October.

## Shocked foreign aid agencies leave Chechenya

NAZRAN, Russia (Agencies) — Most international aid agencies were pulling out of Russia's breakaway Chechenya region Wednesday after gunmen shot six foreign aid workers there dead Tuesday.

Russian officials vowed to track down the killers.

The six — five women and a man working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) — were killed by masked gunmen as they were sleeping in a Red Cross hospital compound in the village of Novye Atagi.

"We have suspended our activities in Chechenya in solidarity with our ICRC colleagues," Aleth Jaurou, a coordinator for the north Caucasus mission of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) told Reuters in Nazran, capital of the Ingushetia region which borders Chechenya.

MSF workers were among the first to land in Chechenya after Russia sent troops there in December 1994 to quell the region's independence drive.

The fighting devastated the southern province and tens of thousands of people were killed in 21 months of fighting.

Now the MSF staff are being moved to Nazran.

Mr. Jaurou could not say how long the suspension would last. The MSF Paris office said Tuesday that the suspension, prompted by worries for about staff security, was indefinite.

The Red Cross said Tuesday it was withdrawing all its international staff, leaving local staff to look after the Novye Atagi Hospital and other Chechenya relief offices.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which has no staff in Chechenya itself, said it had frozen humanitarian work for 80,000 displaced chechens in neighbouring areas.

The Paris-based medical charity Medecins Du Monde (World Doctors) said it would do the same.

Interfax News Agency quoted Russia's Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Kolesnikov as saying Russian police had stepped up efforts to investigate the murder, which he said was clearly aimed at disrupting local elections due on Jan. 27.

"We have good reason to believe that in the near future it will become clear who committed this crime," he said in Moscow.

But it was not clear how Russian police could investigate events in Chechenya. Most Russian troops have left the region under a controversial peace deal and the separatist rebels control the southern region.

The separatists said Tuesday the murder had been carried out by professionals who broke into the hospital and shot the Red Cross workers.

apparently with silenced guns. It was the worst single assault on Red Cross workers and the bloodiest incident involving foreigners on Russian soil for many years.

The murdered workers came from Norway, the Netherlands, Canada, Spain and New Zealand. A seventh worker, a Swiss man who ran the project, was injured.

The separatist leaders have vowed to investigate the incident and to extradite the gunmen to the countries where the murdered workers came from.

The hostage-taking situation was condemned by the separatist-dominated coalition government in Grozny.

But Commander Raduyev, the only separatist commander to oppose the holding of elections next month, scoffed at the de-nunciation, saying he only took orders from former Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, believed to have been killed in April.

Commander Raduyev has insisted that the one-time separatist leader is still alive.

In a separate development, Russia's southern region of North Ossetia said Wednesday three of its senior officials had been kidnapped in neighbouring Chechenya by gunmen seeking a \$6 million ransom.

Interfax News Agency said.

It quoted North Ossetia's Interior Minister Kazbek Dzantiev as saying unidentified gunmen stopped the delegation Monday and took the three men to the mountain village of Vedeno. The kidnapping did not appear to be politically motivated, it said.

Kidnappings for ransom have become frequent in Chechenya, where many armed groups which fought against Russia in the 21-month war have been without a role since a peace deal was struck in August.

The Interfax report could not be confirmed and North Ossetian officials were not immediately available for comment.

Police hostages freed

Meanwhile, forces loyal to Chechen separatist warlord Salman Raduyev released Wednesday 22 Russian police officers who had been held for five days. Interfax News Agency reported citing Russian Interior Ministry sources.

The agency said the police were set free near the border with Chechenya's neighbouring republic, Dagestan, just hours after Commander Raduyev warned that any moves to free the hostages by forces would be met with reprisals.

The police had tried to prevent Commander Raduyev and a group of his men from crossing from Chechenya into Dagestan for a congress of local Chechens, saying that they should leave their weapons behind.

## New U.N. chief calls for a leaner world body

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Kofi Annan, a 58-year-old U.N. career official from Ghana, called for a leaner, more effective United Nations after he was sworn in as secretary-general until the year 2001.

Appointed by acclamation by the 185-nation General Assembly Tuesday, Mr. Annan said nations should "make this organisation leaner, more efficient and more effective, more responsive to the wishes and needs of its members."

Mindful, however, of both Washington's \$1.3 billion debt, which is bankrupting the United Nations, and its demand for reform, he said in his acceptance speech:

"Applaud us when we prevail, correct us when we fail but, above all, do not let this indispensable, irreplaceable institution wither, languish or perish as a result of member state indifference, inattention or financial starvation."

Change, he said, was necessary for the United Nations as well as the rest of the world. "Let us make change our ally, not our enemy, seize

it as an opportunity, not a threat, recognise it as a necessity, not an imposition."

The gray-bearded Annan, currently undersecretary-general for peacekeeping operations, will be the seventh secretary-general in U.N. history when he takes office on Jan. 1.

He will also be the first from sub-Saharan Africa and the first to have risen through the U.N. bureaucracy.

Mr. Annan lost no time appointing a transition team, composed entirely of his former colleagues in the

Peacekeeping Department. It is headed by Iqbal Riza of Pakistan, the current U.N. representative in Bosnia, tipped to become Mr. Annan's cabinet chief.

The 15-member Security Council nominated Mr. Annan to the \$205,809-a-year post last Friday, making his endorsement by the Assembly a formality and gala event. He succeeds 74-year-old Boutros Ghali of Egypt, who probably would have been reelected if the United States had not vetoed his candidacy last month.

## Tajiks subject observers to mock execution

DUSHANBE (R) — United Nations observers monitoring the implementation of a ceasefire in war-torn Tajikistan were subjected to a mock execution by Tajik government troops, the U.N. mission said Wednesday.

"UNMOT military observers were subjected to blatant physical and verbal abuse (and) ordered to line up for execution," the U.N. Observer Mission said in a statement issued in the Tajik capital Dushanbe.

It said the incident — the second time this month Tajik government forces have subjected U.N. observers to physical abuse and a mock execution — took place Sunday.

The statement said two observer teams were on the road to Garm, around 150 kilometres east of Dushanbe, when they were stopped at a government checkpoint.

Fighting between government troops and Islamist opposition guerrillas near Garm threatened to scupper the fragile ceasefire agreed last week.

The statement said the observer teams were made to stand in a field where government soldiers fired machine guns around them. The soldiers then started firing at an unmarked car on the road and the observer-ers fled in the confusion.



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## Learning in daylight

DURING THE deliberations of the International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET), which is holding a conference in Amman this week, a prominent Jordanian expert sounded the alarm on the low standards of teaching at our schools, in the hope that more could be done to improve the quality of education generally. The stark reality, according to the expert, is that 50 per cent of the 60,000 teachers in the Kingdom lack the required academic qualification and that 85 per cent of them are not legally entitled to teach. These alarming figures tell a sad story about the level of our educational standards even though there is in place a 10-year teacher education programme that was launched in 1987 by the National Conference of Education to improve the quality of teaching and teachers.

According to the records of the 1987 project, the rate of achievement has been estimated to be no higher than 10 per cent because few teachers have so far profited from the programme. This is indeed a dismal record for a country desperately striving to alleviate its illiteracy rate and other problems in the field of education, quantitatively and qualitatively.

Economic reasons may be at the root of those problems, it is true. As long as teachers do not earn enough to lead a decent life, their profession will not be able to keep or attract talented and dedicated members. Additionally, so long as resources remain limited, and the population growth stays on the rise, we cannot hope to strike the right balance on the ground.

But then encouraging teachers to better themselves, while not an easy task, is a goal that should not be given up on either.

In this regard, specific areas, where incremental progress could and should be made, have to be explored and identified.

The first is the gap that exists between state-run and private schools. The gap is so big, in fact, that we now have a two-tier educational system: one for the poor and another for the rich. Unless and until the country figures out a way to invest more in government schools, we may end up having two classes of citizens as well, a division that might not bode well for the future of the country as a whole.

The second sphere in which we have to act is that of placing our priorities right. It strikes us that the country does not view education as a high priority issue till this late hour. Despite persistent and determined efforts by a team of educators and interested individuals, led by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the government and the Parliament still do not pay enough attention, or allocate enough resources, to upgrade our educational performance. Which may explain the lack of vigour and determination in pursuing the goals and objectives of the decade-old teachers' education programme.

But fault lies not only with the government and Parliament. The public also is to blame since parents have not been able to form pressure groups strong enough to force real and positive change. Until the majority amongst us manages to introduce a fresh and progressive perspective on education and the people who work in it, we cannot expect much from any plan to improve the lot of teachers or the quality of their teaching methods. It is as simple as that.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ISRAELI settlement programme is dangerous not only to the Palestinians to Jordan as well, and the conspiracy is aimed at swallowing up more and more Arab lands, said a writer for Al Ra'i Wednesday. Faded Faneek said that the Israeli government is spending so many funds on settlements with the aim of gaining lands from the Arabs who will gradually be evicted from their homeland in Palestine, he noted. Naturally, those evicted are bound to come to Jordan which has welcomed the Palestinians since the 1948 war and gave them the opportunity to begin a new life here, continued the writer. He said that in the Israel-Jordan peace treaty there is a clear provision which prevents the Israelis from transferring any Palestinians from their homeland towards Jordan, but Israel does not respect any agreement or commitment and it has proved that it cannot be counted on to honour any accords. The writer said that what Israel aims at achieving is creating a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan and transforming the whole of Palestine into a greater Israel.

COMMENTING ON the current Jordanian-Tunisian talks in Amman, Al Ra'i daily said in an editorial that the two countries' joint higher committee is charting plans for cementing bilateral relations in all fields and paving the ground for a prosperous future. Indeed, Tunisia and Jordan are presenting the Arab World with a model in political, cultural, economic, trade and other fields, and the two countries adopt political pluralism and pursue the march towards democracy, said the paper. By joining hands, Tunisia and Jordan are setting an example for the other Arab states at a time when the other Arab countries are in disarray and separated by differences, it added. There can be no alternative to unity, solidarity and integration among the Arab countries at a time when the world is witnessing the emergence of giant economic entities that ensure the individual member countries' interests, stressed the paper.

## The View from Academia

# On picnics and garbage cans

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

OVER THE past two decades, Jordanians have become regular and serious picnickers. In the sixties and seventies, outings were rare happenings. Many people did not have cars, and an hour's drive was thought of as a long trip and an adventure one did not embark on regularly. Besides, friends and neighbours did not picnic, and so one did not either. Up until 1990, when he passed away, my father would not go on a picnic with me except once or twice a year: in the winter time to the Jordan Valley, and in the summer time to Salt, Jerash or Ajloun.

Today, the matter is radically different. Many people go out to near and far places regularly. They go out to "breathe fresh air," to check out the "hot" picnic spots, to admire nature, to barbecue, to eat a home-made lunch, to drink coffee or tea, to smoke a hookah, to play, to exercise, to test or show their culinary skills, to parade their cars, etc. And they go out in winter time, spring time, and summer time. And they go out to the northern, southern, western and eastern parts of the country. Everybody goes out: infants, children, adults and senior citizens. They go out in new vehicles, in old vehicles, in cars, in buses, in jeeps, in pick-up trucks, in lorries, and in trailer-trucks. They sing, they dance, they honk, and they beat drums.

Fine (aside from the lorries and trucks, that is). Going out is healthy. Breathing fresh air is healthy, physically and psychologically — except that in a space which has more trucks and cars than trees, it is hard to breathe fresh air. Going out is relaxing, especially for urbanites and sedentary employees — except that people sit so close (due to the limited picnic space) and children are so selfish and obnoxious, it is at times hard to meditate or stare at nature in peace.

But one can live with annoyances such as these. Our adult world is not so perfect, and life has its ups and downs. A few years and we will leave this earth in peace

(as we keep telling ourselves), so why make a fuss about everything? Fine, again. But what is not so fine and what has been difficult to live with recently is the quality of the picnic areas — the quality of the environment — and this is something that has to be taken seriously.

The other day (it was sunny, cool and beautiful), we decided to go to the Dead Sea. By way of changing our normal route, we opted to go through Salt and Wadi Shu'ayb. Even though this particular route is nowhere near the beauty it is in the spring time, it does have its own charms this time of year. There are some trees, and there is water. What more does one want? Moreover, to Jordanian schoolboys (or girls) — present and past — this particular spot has a certain meaning and a certain history: it is one of the areas which one frequently goes (or went) through on annual school picnics. And the first thing one does (or did) is to jump out of the bus after the teacher, even before the bus stops, take the shoes off, and walk right into the water. The moment is romantic (potentially at least) because of nature and because of a strong reminiscence of past experiences.

When we got there (I had not been to this spot for about seven or eight years), I was this time both disappointed and shocked at the deterioration of the area. First of all, nothing had been done to it all these years, even though it is one of the most interesting spots on our agenda, as "internal" tourists. It is as difficult and dangerous to get to the water as it was when I was a schoolboy. Is it so difficult and costly to construct 15 or 20 steps which would help children, adults and senior people climb up and down to the water, rather than leave them to slide, jump or run dangerously into the small wadi? Or worse, left to dig into the slope their own steps, which causes more damage to the environment.

Second, and more importantly, there is incredibly much

filth in the area. Food waste, human waste, plastic bags, banana and orange skins, meat bones, diapers, newspapers and other gross things that cannot be described. The place is truly disgusting. The water itself, from which people used to drink a couple of decades ago, looks dirty and polluted, as evident from its colour and from the dead small fish.

Well, I do not wish to raise philosophical questions here — with respect to civilisation, evolution of human behaviour and the morphology of human habits and customs. Nor do I wish to ask our educators, sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, philosophers, political scientists and religious leaders why our citizens find it hard to put their garbage in a plastic bag and take it with them to the nearest garbage container. I have raised these questions before, and I do not wish to bore you with them.

Rather, I wish (at a very practical, mundane, humble and unpoetic level) to talk to our municipal officials and employees to ask them two small questions, apologising in advance for any inconvenience, annoyance or embarrassment that such questions may cause them. Question I: Is it difficult to put a couple of garbage containers at the picnic spots throughout the country? Question II: If our sociologists, teachers and preachers have failed to make our citizens understand that they should clean after themselves, is it difficult for the municipal employees to visit these areas once in a while (if not regularly) and clean them? After all, we do not have so many picnic areas. They can all be toured in less than 24 hours.

Well, I know we are dying in 20, 30, 40 or 50 years. I also know that we may never see our children and young men and women less selfish and obnoxious at picnics before we die. But can't we, until our souls rest in peace, enjoy clean picnic areas? Can't we enjoy the luxury of garbage cans, as we do in our cities?

## In a democracy, children should get the vote

By Stein Ringen

PARIS — In the second half of this century, Britain has gone through two remarkable periods of change in the fabric of its society. The first 25 years saw a dramatic narrowing of social differences. The second period has been one of an even more dramatic widening of social differences.

Prosperity increased through both periods, but the way in which that prosperity was shared changed around 1975. In the second period, the population divided into winners and losers. Among the losers are children.

Child poverty increased. In a period of rising prosperity, society did not see to it that children were the first to benefit or even share equally.

This is not unique to Britain. In the United States, according to statistics published by Congress, one child in four lives in poverty. In France, official research shows that since 1980 the young have been increasingly excluded from the benefits of economic growth.

One cause of child deprivation is the decline in the stable family. With increasing single parenthood, children are at increasing risk of poverty. No life event has more drastic consequences for the standard of living than divorce. With increasing divorce, children are at increasing risk of poverty.

A second cause is inadequate economic support to

families with children. Child rearing is costly. Many parents sacrifice income. This "opportunity cost" is high, on average 30 to 40 per cent for young families with small children. Economic support nowhere near compensates for the cost and has in many countries been reduced as the cost of child rearing has increased.

Welfare states which go to lengths to protect other groups against social risk have not instituted "social security for children." In Britain — in this kind and compassionate people — when the social competition intensified, children were not protected against the increasing risk of poverty. The reason lies in the very machinery of democratic

theory holds that inability to exercise rights does not mean that the citizens in question do not have rights; it means a responsibility on others to assist them to exercise their rights as best as possible. This principle is, for example, being recognised for handicapped persons.

It is disturbing that children do not have better protection, disturbing both from the point of view of charity (children are vulnerable citizens) and from the point of view of efficiency — the future of a society lies with its children.

Something here is not working. We want protection for our children, but they are not getting it.

The institution which makes democracy work is the vote. It is possible to give the voice of children representation by giving children

access to the vote.

• Reduce the voting age to, say 16. This is already in many other respects accepted as the age of maturity.

• The vote of children who are too young should be exercised by custodians. Modern legal and citizenship

theory holds that inability to exercise rights does not mean that the citizens in question do not have rights; it means a responsibility on others to assist them to exercise their rights as best as possible. This principle is, for example, being recognised for handicapped persons.

Mothers should be the custodians of the vote of children. Mothers are more often more altruistic on behalf of their children than are fathers. This is known from different patterns of spending in families: where mothers, or fathers, control the budget.

Mothers should have two votes, their own and one for their children. The second vote should be independent of the number of children. This would prevent the anomaly that many children would result in many votes, which would be unacceptable to other voters.

The democratic principle is one person, one vote. We have slowly approached this ideal, extending the vote to men without property, then to women, then to the young. It is time, at the end of the century of democracy, to take the next step and to extend it to children.

The writer is professor of sociology and social policy at the University of Oxford and author of "Citizens, Families and Reform." This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

# A proliferation of rights, but the children have a case

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — The United Nations sometimes sets standards by which its members can be judged. It does this not merely in resolutions passed in New York but in those big global conferences that often seem gassy but can turn out to touch real people's lives.

One of those conferences produced, in 1990, a Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has become the launching pad for a broad international movement aimed at raising the social and economic level of an otherwise frail political constituency, children.

The latest fruits are a U.N. report on the impact of armed conflict on children, and UNICEF's new campaign to control child labour.

The United States has been fortunate enough to have had no 20th century exposure to war on its own soil, and the matter bears relatively lightly on American consciousness. A wider public is coming to perceive the salient hardships of child labour, but that phe-

nomenon, too, remains remote from American's remembered common experience.

In many other places, however, war and work are twin curses blighting the sweetness that we aspire to ensure for our children. For the otherwise lonely political elements in those places that do feel an urgency, it can be a major support to know and to advertise that they are on the crest of an international wave.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child has become the most widely ratified human rights instrument in international law. Given the central role that human rights play in the West's ordering of international priorities, this trend is bound to continue to influence UNICEF, and not only that agency.

The people who hatch these conventions, conferences and resolutions have a weakness for inventing "rights." To say that it is good, it is right, you need it and you deserve it does not seem to be enough anymore. People want the extra impetus of having their claim dignified as a right.

The vocabulary of entitlement has gone far beyond the familiar American emphasis on civil or political rights. This is how we come to an international call for the rights of particular parts of the population (children, women, the aged, the infirm) and for the right of food, clean air and water, health, work and other emblems of the good life.

The federal system, not to speak of the conservative tendency in its politics, keeps the United States from subscribing to this proliferation of rights, lest supposedly America's sovereignty be impaired and its pocket be picked. These spectres do not appear to me to be very substantial.

In any event, it seems more important to act generously, which we are capable of doing when we put our mind to it, than to sign up for a bunch of controversial treaties.

Social and economic rights tend to be endowed by a strong state, meaning one with the resources and centralised authority to distribute benefits. Political rights, including the protection of the

person, tend to be threatened by a strong state and need strong reinforcement in the law — and close monitoring by the public and private human rights watch groups.

As a nation, America seems now to be confused about just what kind of model it wants to set and recommend for other, striving states. It is a discussion worth continuing.

Some see the emphasis by UNICEF and other international agencies on rights as a distraction from the traditional developmental goal of growth. A focus on rights can multiply claimants and sharpen the argument over dividing the pie. At the same time, the pursuit of growth can lead to a sacrifice of human equity to raw economic expansion.

Some of these questions will be answered by the big banks and aid donors and the churning of the international economy. But if we are smart and lucky, most of these questions will be answered by the play of democratic politics within and among individual nations.

International Herald Tribune

## LETTERS

### Humanity should prevail

To the Editor:

I ONCE read that in an European country, a sort of experiment or survey was conducted to test the spontaneity of the human instinct to help strangers in times of emergency. For that purpose, an actor with a hidden camera played the role of a car accident victim who lay on the rim of a busy highway in bad weather condition. Curious drivers slowed down, to only look upon, but it took several long hours till somebody finally had the courage to stop and offer help. Although motorists in the West have solid reasons to be cautious, such indifference has puzzled me and I always thanked God that in our part of the world things are totally different, as people care for each other in a warm and natural manner.

I have to admit, though, that a recent incident, and similar stories that I have been told, have shaken my confidence and painfully made me realise that perhaps we are losing our special touch.

The incident I am talking about happened one rainy, cold afternoon. A colleague of mine, together with two friends of his, left work and proceeded towards the closest main road, which happens to be the Airport Highway, to get a taxi. Packed under the same umbrella, they patiently wait for a taxi to appear. Instead, a speedy pickup, apparently not taking notice of the standing men, sweeps one of the men, throwing him a couple of metres away on the side of the driveway and moves on.

When realising what had happened to their friend, who was bleeding, the two others tried to stop a car and get him to the nearest hospital. Many cars stopped, but when their drivers learned that the injured man was hit by another car, nobody agreed to carry him.

After a great deal of frustration and anger, caused by the refusal of motorists to cooperate, one of the men halted all traffic by standing in the middle of the road, desperately waving and shouting for help. Finally, two engineers riding a car offered help.

Our friend and colleague reached a hospital where he regained consciousness.

Luckily, he escaped with minor injuries. But what would have happened if he had bled to death while lying helplessly on the side of the road?

There are two elements of concern regarding this incident. First, the "hit and run" attitude among drivers, which is getting to become commonplace. Absolutely efficient and strict measures must be adopted by the authorities in the process of apprehending and punishing such violators.

On the other hand, unfortunately, there seems to be something frustrating and embarrassing in the police procedure applied even to those who voluntarily engage in the process of reporting cases to hospitals or police stations. An interrogative approach that sometimes ends up with a stay in jail for a couple of hours is definitely not the best way of thanking somebody for being human. It is very discouraging indeed! A totally different method must be applied, which requires the amendment of present police regulations and procedures.

Yet, in times of crisis, human actions are dictated by the inner, spontaneous urge to help, regardless of annoying consequences or boring procedures. Human compassion, warmth and understanding are precious and need to be retained, for without them, humanity would be grim and cold as ice.

Rumiana M. Nuseibeh,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Society on the Move

### Promotions make 'grand' communicators

A special engagement is around the corner, but we, and the press, are not allowed to tell you about it until it's official. Then again, we're reporting from Amman, bustling metropolis of rapid fire news, so you probably already have heard. But we kept our promise to those concerned and await the pronouncement on Sunday. Will give you a hint though — it's real.

**SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED:** There are some new connections in upper echelons of the official telecommunications and postal sector. The one which is confirmed is the election of Ministry of Post and Communications Secretary General Hashem Qudus as regional advisor for the Arab countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The Bern-based UPU election committee decides on these regional posts around the world and the final O.K. is in the hands of the UPU Director General, Mr. Qudus, who has been secretary general at the ministry for two years, had earlier been director of postal affairs. He will be based in the UPU's regional office in Cairo and take up his post there on Jan. 1. Mr. Qudus's job will entail ensuring the quality of postal services and of technical cooperation, mainly postal development projects financed by the UPU or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The name being mentioned as Mr. Qudus's successor at the ministry is that of Samir Maitoh, who is presently an advisor there.

**CALL-WAITING:** Over at the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), Director General Walid Dweik is tipped to be appointed chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC), the government-owned shareholding company that is to replace the TCC on Jan. 1. With Mr. Dweik at the head of the board, it is expected that the TCC's Deputy Director General for Legal Counsel Momoun Balqar will be named director general of the new JTC. Both appointments should be announced at Saturday's Council of Ministers meeting. But while there is still a TCC, one long-serving officer there was entitled to a significant promotion. He is Afrom Jamil, who last week sealed that career advancement in the nick of time when the Cabinet appointed him TCC director general. Thus after the conversion of the corporation into the JTC, Mr. Jamil will have acquired the seniority to serve as an advisor to the new company.

**MAKING THE GRADE:** Several government officials serving at the Royal Court were upgraded to various ranks according to the civil service system. Grading begins at the 10th rank, working up to 1st rank for every five years of service. On the list of those making the new ranks were Jordan Information Bureau/London Director Bassam Asfour, Assistant Chief of Royal Protocol Basil Mufli, and Finance Department Officer Bassam Sobor, all to first grade; Administrative Officer Mahmoud Sawelmin to third grade; and the Assistant Chief of Royal Protocol and head of protocol for the office of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Seif Majoli, to 4th grade.

**WHAT PRICE TRAVEL?** In case you have been wondering, as has Deputy Hamman Saeed (Islamist, Amman



HRH Crown Prince Hassan strikes a pose with students from Zein Al Sharaf and Al Shumua schools who performed for participants at the 43rd World Assembly of the International Council on Education for Teaching held in Amman last week (photo by Baghos)

5th District), how much the government spends on per diems for officials travelling abroad, we have a quite figure for you. Responding to a related question from the same deputy in a Parliament session last week, Minister of Finance Morwan Awad tallied up per diem expenses for 1994, 1995, and up until Aug. 10, 1996 and came up with a total of JD 605,418 in per diems. Calculated against an average annual government budget of JD 1.5 billion, one arrives at a rate of 0.040% of taxpayer's money used to cover a portion of the cost of junkies.

**WATER WATER EVERYWHERE:** Also in Parliament last week, the much talked-about water fight between Minister of Agriculture Mustafá Smeitani and Deputy Ali Shari was reconciled by the Prime Minister, but not before columnist Munes Razzaz had a chance to quip that squabbles between ministers and deputies are much less concern to him than is the pressing issue of the Kingdom's water shortage. Some readers questioned whether the prominent writer was subtly suggesting that our officials should revert to flinging more solid objects at each other as a water conservation measure.

**PAPER SURPLUS:** Perhaps adding to the woes of the Ministry of Information is the licensing of yet another weekly newspaper. It is called Al Safir, and if it proves to be of a penmanship similar to the Beirut-based paper of the same name, the ministry may be in for some trouble. Last week the chief editor of the Lebanese Al Safir Talal Salman was denied entry into Jordan — a decision the government said was not politically motivated but rather was an act of sovereignty. A senior security official had said that the leftist paper had "persistently tried to insult this country and its

leadership." Chief Editor of the new Amman-based Al Safir Miyasar Nasrallah, has her own experience with a paper that has had its scrapes with the authorities. Young and not necessarily seasoned, Ms. Nasrallah was a reporter for Shihani.

**FATHER KNOWS BEST:** On Friday's Religious Opinion page of our sister paper Al Rai nearly all but nine columns concentrate on Islamic themes. The one who ventures into explanations of Christianity is Dr. Tajideen Mahunoud Joanni, who until last week has maintained a critique-free forum. The bend in the road has come in the form of an opinion piece on Dr. Joanni's writings published in Al Rai by Father Rifa'i Boder of the Latin Church in Madaba. Father Boder maintains that although some of Dr. Joanni's articles correctly portray the tenets of Christianity, others have contained inaccuracies. The priest said that he appreciated the work of Dr. Joanni because it promotes solidarity, tolerance and understanding among people of different faiths, but he appealed to the writer to strive for accuracy in dealing with the subject. Readers may yet find an interfaith discourse column in upcoming Friday issues.

**WITH COMPASS IN HAND:** Friedrich Neumann Foundation Representative Wolter Rüdell's career seems to be coming full circle. Before being posted to Amman to establish the foundation in 1981, Mr. Rüdell spent 20 years as a director and producer for German television. Now after 15 years in Jordan with his wife Mariam, he returns to Germany to work again as a producer with ARD and ZDF television stations, but on a fancy-free-lance basis. Heading Friedrich Neumann in Amman was his first foreign job. He started with media productions on development

themes in such areas as agriculture and environmental protection, produced about 60 programmes, conducted seminars, workshops, and international conferences, and published reports, books and posters. Mr. Rüdell's successor is Dr. Ulrich Vogt who has been here since September learning the ropes. But having worked for the foundation in his most recent post in Tunisia, Dr. Vogt comes experienced. The Rüdells will only be entering semi-retirement. Mariam will be working as a simultaneous translator and also will go on lecturing and teaching in the field of environment. The couple will be based in a small village close to Rothenburg. But as environmentalists they know just how to follow climatic changes and will maintain their home in Amman, where they expect to be passing through for visits during Germany's colder months, plus make stops to another favourite spot in Spain, Altea in the Alicante province. Tonight the Rüdells host a reception to introduce Dr. and Mrs. Vogt and to say farewell to all their friends and associates. The event includes addresses by former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat and former advisor at the Royal Court and former head of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation Mervat Tell.

**A TRUE BENEDICTUS:** Saying farewell also is Italian Embassy First Secretary Raffaele de Benedictis, but his journey is much less short. Mr. de Benedictis will be posted to Cyprus again as first secretary for commercial affairs. The embassy in Cyprus is a small one, staffed only by the ambassador and first secretary. The tenure here since June 1992 of Raffaele and his wife Paola was blessed with the birth last year of their twins, daughter Bianca and son Andrea. The family is spending the holidays in Amman and then will head for Cyprus on Jan. 11. The first secretary's successor is Catherine Flaminio, who will also focus on economic affairs. She arrives from Rome on this, her first foreign assignment, on Jan. 13.

**THE BIG FIVE O:** Entering the golden years this past week was European Union Representative in Amman Yves Gazzo. He and his wife Nicole celebrated his 50th birthday with an intimate gathering of close friends around goner pots of cheese fondue. The Gazzos were expecting HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath, but their schedules are quite cramped these days. Still it was a happy birthday for this Frenchman. Chapeau!

**HIGH FLYERS:** During a chatter and music-filled evening hosted by HRH Prince Faisal at the Forte Grand Hotel, Royal Jordanian Marketing and Sales Vice President Mojib Sabri honoured the airlines highest achieving regional offices. Prizes ranged from one golden dior to nearly \$10,000. The big winners were Aero Managers Nabil Batayneh in Jakarta, Samir Abu Navar in Bangkok, Riad Sawalha in Paris, Maha Binar in Vienna (now area manager for Amman), and Ghaleb Madadho in Madrid. RJ has a long-standing tradition of noting and rewarding its most industrious staff members as well as its general sales agents, not in mention those who have served the airline for many years. Chapeau to them too.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Continuity despite change

**Village, Steppe and State: The Social Origins of Modern Jordan**  
Edited by Eugene L. Rogan and Tariq Tell  
London: British Academic Press, 1994, 226 pages

SINCE most books about Jordan focus on politics, this collection of eight socioeconomic-oriented articles is a meaningful addition to scholarship on the Kingdom. The book grew out of a discussion group at the Middle East Centre, St. Antony's College, Oxford. What unites the contributors is that they "approach the country from within, through the material culture, the archival resources, local press and publications, and interviews with Jordanians" (Rogan, p. XVI). While some chapters go back to Ottoman rule, the majority focus on the British mandate period or its immediate aftermath.

In the initial article, Jeremy Johns goes even further back in time. With the help of archaeological data, he disputes the Orientalist "myth of the bedouin," including the idea that the ancient civilisations in the area were devastated by "nomadic hordes" during the 7th century Islamic/Arab conquest, and nothing built to their place. Eugene Rogan's subsequent article disputes conventional wisdom that the

Ottoman period was merely "four centuries of neglect." Tracing state involvement in settlement and cultivation of new territory, he argues that "many of the features of Jordanian society and politics attributed to the Mandate period and Hashemite rule may in fact be traced back to this Ottoman legacy. Most, if not all, the contributors to Village, Steppe and State concur with Rogan's thesis of continuity in Jordan's social history, despite radical political ruptures that occurred in the region."

Another common theme linking many chapters is how British mandate policy influenced the evolution of the Jordanian state. Michael R. Fischbach identifies public education, and the campaign to survey and settle land title, as the two policies initiated by the British "which exerted the most profound influence on the average Transjordanian villager." The land policy was intended to raise agricultural productivity and tax revenues, thereby reducing dependence on British subsidies. While this aim failed, Fischbach asserts that the land programme was generally popular, thus securing the new Jordanian government a political base among cultivators. This had country-wide implications; for, according to Riccardo Bocco and Tariq M. M. Tell, by the late 30s "the steppe (hadya) was being drawn steadily into

the mainstream of Transjordan's affairs," and most bedouins were part-time cultivators as well as pastoralists.

Settling land title also had drawbacks. Partitioning musha' (collective land) broke up social control of cultivation, and deprived villagers of the forests they needed for firewood and livestock grazing. There was much resistance to this latter aspect; in the Ajloun area, many thousands of trees were felled by villagers rushing to cultivate and thus gain title to land. Arguably, Jordan is still suffering the consequences. The land programme also induced rising prices and land mortgaging to the benefit of merchants in Amman, who "invested the huge profits they made trading and smuggling during the World War II in mortgages."

If Jordan's early history was interwoven in the relation between state and rural population, World War II changed all that by bringing an urban-based strata to the fore. Zala Amari terms the war situation "the decisive factor in the development of the Transjordanian merchant class... which emerged as the only class possessing the contacts and the capital to forge an alliance with the state." British wartime policy enabled a small group of mainly Syrian and Palestinian immigrant merchants to take advantage of inflation, shortages, speculation and contraband to amass

## BOOK REVIEW

great wealth. State officials' tacit acceptance of these activities raises the question: "Did they consciously intend to enrich the merchants...?"

The last article, written by Paul W. T. Kingston, is perhaps the one with greatest current relevance. It covers the struggle to control development policy in the early 50s. The main players in that multi-sided conflict were the donor countries, Britain and the U.S., and the "economic nationalists" in Jordan's Ministry of Economy. Britain took a gradualist approach, financing limited, rural-oriented projects which could later be taken over by the Jordanian administration. The U.S. advanced more ambitious projects involving technology transfer, which often counteracted the development of local potentials. The "economic nationalists" pushed for broader industrial and infrastructural development, aimed at ending dependency. There is no need to reiterate how this conflict was resolved, since elements of all three approaches and many others have been merged in Jordan's ensuing development. What is striking is that many of the same issues are still being raised in debates about aid to developing countries.

By Sally Bland

## Life imitates art in new combat action film

**By Tanya Habjouqa**  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — The ruins of Petra and Jerash are attracting the interest of foreign film companies, with mixed reactions from Jordanians involved in both the sidelines and as employees of the films.

Mortal Combat II: Annihilation, distributed by New Line Cinema, which has in the past released such as The Mask, is now come to utilise "Jordan's otherworldly ruins, simply beautiful landscapes," as Cid Swank, the films publicist, told the Jordan Times.

The first Mortal Combat, recently released in the Kingdom, earned \$23 million in its first weekend in the United States during August of 1995 and its producers searched the world to find settings for the follow up, deciding on Jordan and Thailand, said Ms. Swank.

Mortal Combat II has finished filming five days in Petra and is wrapping up this week in Jerash, where the film will travel on to Thailand after Christmas vacations for its crew.

According to Ms. Swank, the cast includes Robins Shou and Talisa

Soto, who are returning to their roles from the original Mortal Combat, as well as James Remar from The Phantom, Sandra Hoss of Encino Man, and Russian supermodel Irina Pantayeva in her first American film.

Last week in Petra, the film stars seemed amazed by the splendours of the ruins, and the bedouins were awed by the actresses in their alluring battle outfits. "While stunt doubles raced on horses with bedouin riders employed for this task."

According to Mohammad, a tourist shop owner, films such as Mortal Kun-

ha and the recently filmed Sindbad are good for business, as they are paid for the time they close shop during filming, and the bedouins enjoy chatting with the film crews.

Other bedouins, however, were not quite as thrilled with the filming of Mortal Combat II, which involved the moving of donkeys, camels, and the bedouins themselves from the film sites.

"They block tourist sites, the tourists become angry and we cannot sell our goods... They paralyse our daily lives," one bedouin woman complained.

The film production com-

pany, Outworld Productions, employed over 12 Jordanians as production assistants, stand-ins, and office assistants, yet failed in its attempt of filming over 250 Petra locals as extras.

Last Friday, 250 locals who included bedouins and farmers were dressed in ninja garb and "armed" with plastic ninja swords and stakes during the early morning hours.

Sometimes during the afternoon, the extras began arguing over the lunch provided by the film, and then went on to holler and protest over their pay and work, which entailed covering their faces with masks

and running down a valley towards the camera.

Lee Clearly, the film's first assistant director, decided to abandon the operation, as he felt that the production assistants who were on the scene might be in danger.

According to one Jordanian employed by Outworld Productions, who requested anonymity, "the extras were probably angry over their pay, \$15 for what was to be a 12-hour day of work, although they were aware of the pay before they began working."

When this journalist spoke with an employee in a higher position with Out-

world Productions, who also requested anonymity, she admitted that in the United States, extras would be paid around \$100 for eight hours of work.

Other Jordanian production assistants were paid around \$200 for a week's work, which included 12-hour work days.

"The company would not pay such wages to American workers because by law they would not be able to," added the worker who wished to remain anonymous, as she did not want to anger her employers.

Although the film was beneficial to the Kingdom's economy for obvious rea-

sons, such as the use of hotels and transportation, some Jordanians involved as either employees or bystanders felt negatively about the film producers' attitudes.

While the film gave some young Jordanians a chance to learn the craft of filmmaking, provisions need to be made to protect the rights of those involved in such film productions, continued the Jordanian production assistant who had requested anonymity.

More films are expected to be shot in the Kingdom next year.

## How to make the (up)grade

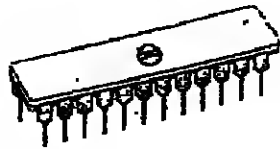
By Jean-Claude Elias

BUYING A NEW computer for the first time is an exciting experience. For many of us however it cannot be a first anymore. There is indeed hardly an office or a home without a personal computer of some sort. In all these places already equipped with a PC the second choice for techno excitement is to acquire another, a newer machine. This solution however is not always the wisest — what if one does not have room for more equipment, or if one's budget does not allow a new purchase?

The next best thing one can do, and the most cost-efficient one, is to upgrade an already existing computer. The upgrade consists of replacing some components and adding others in order to bring an ageing computer up to current standards in terms of power, speed and functionality. Generally speaking any PC that is 2 to 4 years old can successfully undergo such a surgical operation, and at reasonable cost. For equipment older than that the cost would be prohibitive for there would be too many elements to replace or add and the final cost would be practically equivalent to buying completely new equipment.

Not surprisingly most computer dealers in Amman have confirmed that about 40 per cent of their sales revenue this year were generated by upgrading their clients' machines. It has become a business by itself. The average upgrade costs half of the new machine's original price, approximately. For example, a 486 DX 33 PC with 8 MB of RAM and a 420 MB hard disk can be transformed into a Pentium 133 with 16 MB of RAM and a 1.2 GB hard disk for JD 600. Most of the time the system also receives "plastic surgery" treatment — a new case that will make it look more "in". The low cost of trendy computer cases (about

## chip talk



JD 40) make some PC users want the change just for aesthetic reason.

The motives that are making people want to upgrade are not only technical. Even those who are satisfied with their machine's performance are considering the change, for obvious financial reasons. Upgrading a 2 to 4-year-old computer allows you for reasonable amount of money to keep it up to current standards and therefore to maintain its value. Waiting for a longer period of time before making the enhancement will reduce the equipment's street value to practically nil, making it impossible to sell or upgrade. Starting next year a 386 or older computer, even in perfect working condition, will have virtually no commercial value. Nobody will pay even JD 50 for it.

Those who follow the PC market and the new trends know that spending some money on upgrades, every 3 years for instance, is actually saving money. The other attitude is to accept to buy a machine and then completely discard it after 6 to 8 years.

## The meek shall inherit the earth, but will they want to?

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

THERE MAY not be much of Earth to inherit after we are through with it but this is something that has to do with society and the collective will to do things, or not to do them.

Because of this, there are two groups of people in this world. The makers and the takers.

The first of these groups are the meek of this world. These are the disinherited and the disillusioned. The victims. These are the people who are constantly being harassed by others, who in turn actually enjoy the act. They are also subjected to the worst kind of abuse that one can imagine.

The harassment stems from having to bear the brunt of the silly and messy way in which we do things. Things that we as a society seem willing to accept. These can be things like the bloopers committed by a certain telecommunications company who cuts through and digs your pavement twice in a matter of months, and in the same place, with the lame excuse of having to lay more cables. They can also be things that have to do with the pitiful excuse for a contractor who, it seems, hardly bothers to clear up the mess after him because a normal citizen's welfare is no concern of his. Quite unlike that of the big shot living nearby whose surroundings enjoy a blossoming facelift no sooner the work is completed.

If these were things that happen once in a blue moon then maybe we could put up with them. Unfortunately, this is not the case. We seem to have no problems with falling into the same mistakes over and over again. While others learn from trial and error, we are above such things.

Things that include our own satellite channel which seems oblivious to the fact that there are plenty of good looking young people in Jordan who would relish the opportunity to work in a satellite channel. Lebanon's Future International constantly boasts the beauty and treasures of Lebanon. Why can't we do the same and get over whatever it is we seem to suffer from?

Then again, maybe we are just not cut out to be a part of the twentieth century. Maybe we are just like those 4,000 people keen to try their first "Big Mac" when they filled the central avenue of Minsk, the capital of Belarus, as



McDonald's celebrated opening its doors in a 100th country. Those people descended on the fast food joint believing free food was on offer.

The other group of people includes those people who have made 1996 dull and dreary for you, and who genuinely seem to have no particular personality and who have genuinely achieved nothing all through the year.

These people include the guy who does the weather forecast, the guy who comes up behind you at 100 kmh on the road and flashes his headlights if you won't get out of the way quickly enough, anyone who still wears his baseball cap back to front, taxi drivers in desperate need of reform school, anyone idiot enough to carry a gun to confront a burglar because even a burglar has a tribe behind him ready to claim compensation and indulge in a famous Jordanian ritual, anyone who rings you up after having not called for so long to ask why haven't you called, and the guy who drives along the motorway in front of you in the middle or fast lane at a solid 50 kmh, no more, and won't move over even when you flash your lights at him from behind.

Are all such people worthy to inherit the Earth? Evidence tells us that they are not worthy. Would we want to share this land with such people? I think not. The light at the end of the tunnel is as far away as it was years ago. Yet, what makes things a little bit brighter are the efforts of people. People such as those at the "Friends of the Environment," whose genuine care and efforts we salute.

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, December 19, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Iris + Ovide & The Gang
2:35	Out Of This World
3:00	Covington Cross
3:30	Feature — Rascals & Robbers Starring: Patrick Creadon & Anthony Michael Hall
5:00	News Flash
5:02	Continuation Of Film
5:30	French Programmes Entertainment Varieties
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Atomes Crochus
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Pacific Station
8:00	The American Chart Show
8:30	Material World
9:10	Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Mr. Destiny Starring: James Belushi & Linda Hamilton
12:00	Taratata

8:00	Auto — Classics
8:30	Album Show
9:10	Documentary — Hold Up The Sun
10:00	News In English
10:25	Cover (Drama)
11:15	Miami Vice (Police Drama)
12:00	Yes Minister

Monday, December 23, 1996

Friday, December 20, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	The Muppet Show & Flintstones
3:00	French Programmes
3:15	L'Ecole Des Fans
4:00	Crystal Maze
5:00	News Flash
5:02	French Programme
7:00	Magazine — Envoye Special
7:15	Le Journal
7:30	Magazine — Allo La Terre
7:35	News Headlines
8:00	Down To Earth
8:30	Documentary — Discover Magazine
9:10	Virtual Reality — VR.5
10:00	Hunter
10:25	News In English
11:15	Feature Film — Men Don't Tell Starring: Peter Staus & Judith Light

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Muppet Show
2:30	Dad's Army
3:00	French Programme — Varieties
3:30	Nature's Inventions
4:30	Hey Dad
5:00	News Flash
5:02	Wild Flower — Documentary
5:15	Dalton
6:00	French Programme — Magazine Science — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Rosanne
8:00	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary
8:30	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
9:10	The Lazarus Man
10:00	News In English
10:25	Best Seller — Devices & Desires
11:15	The Knock

Tuesday, December 24, 1996

Saturday, December 21, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Adventures Of Micky And Donald
2:30	Circus & Safety At Work
3:00	French Programme
3:30	Document — La France Aux Mille Villages
4:00	Family Programme — Fete Des Bebes
4:30	Gillette (Sports)
5:00	Crisis Cross
5:02	News Flash
5:15	Futures
5:30	The Blue Heelers
6:00	French Programme
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Ziva
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Something Wilder
8:00	Superstars Of Action
8:30	Prism
9:10	Lois And Clark (Superman)
10:00	News In English
10:25	Best Seller — Devices & Desires
11:15	Feature Film — Hot Spot Starring: Rod Taylor & Britt Eckland

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Budgie (The Little Helicopter)
2:30	Captain Planet (Cartoon)
2:40	I Love Lucy
3:00	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
3:15	Magazine — Montagne
4:00	At The Zoo
4:30	Documentary
5:00	News Flash
5:02	Fun With Physics
5:15	Cyclone Tracy
6:00	French Programme
6:15	Serie — La Lumiere Des Justes
7:30	Magazine — Extra Large
7:35	News Headlines
8:00	Murphy Brown
8:30	Magazine Zero — One
10:00	Christmas In Connecticut
10:30	Starring: Dyan Cannon & Kris Kristofferson
11:15	News In English
12:00	Something Wilder
1:00	Mission Impossible
1:15	Xmas Show — Sound Of Christmas
1:30	Julie Andrews & John Denver
1:45	A.M. Midnight Mass From Vatican (Live On Air)

Wednesday, December 25, 1996

Sunday, December 22, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Jonny Quest (Cartoon)
2:30	You Bet Your Life
3:00	French Programme
3:30	Entertainment — Week-ends Specialux
4:00	World Echo (Documentary)
4:30	The Famous Five
5:00	News Flash
5:02	Our World Their World — Documentary
5:15	All Our Children
6:00	French Programme
7:00	Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:15	Le Journal
7:30	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:35	News Headlines
7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Snowwhite (Cartoon)
3:30	& The 12 Days Of Xmas
4:00	Christmas Ceremonies
4:30	Documentary — Earth Revealed
5:00	Blizzard Island
5:02	News Flash
5:30	Kelly & Challenge (Doc.)
6:00	French Programme
7:00	Document — Ushuaia
7:15	Le Journal
7:30	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:35	News Headlines
8:00	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
9:10	Challenges
10:00	N.B.A. Basketball
10:25	News In English
11:15	Cobra (New Series)
12:00	Hart To Hart
12:00	Who's The Boss?

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### STRANGE BELIEFS

\* ONE must preserve the first egg that is laid on Thursday Ascend as it protects the ceiling that shelters it. If the egg is placed on the sill, the storm becomes calm, fire dies and wind comes to a standstill.

If deposited under the bed of a patient, it would make him recover soon.

\* IF A traveller wants to walk for a long distance without feeling tired, he has to get a stick from an "elder" strong branch.

In case the elder (tree) is planted all round the four corners of the house, it would keep the serpents away.

Should a person dust his clothes off with one of the "elder" boughs, magic would keep aloof from him.

\* IF tobacco comes out of the pipe after being lit, this would indicate that rain is going to fall.

Were the tobacco mixed with toad powder or sugar-cane, leftovers, the smoker would have a long and comfortable sleep.

### PUZZLES

#### WHO'S WHO?

She is an English novelist.  
Her name consists of 13 letters: first name 8, the second 5.

LETTERS 1, 7, 8 means by way of.  
LETTERS 4, 3, 5, 6 means smile broadly.  
LETTERS 13, 12, 2 means "boy" in French.  
Now, try hard to remember the name of this famous authoress.

IN CASE, you fail to reach the correct answer, the following information may help you:

- She was an innovative influence on the 20th Century novel.
- She set up the Hogarth Press in 1917.
- She concentrated, in her writing, on the flow of ordinary experience and the stream of consciousness.
- Her prose was poetic, symbolic and visual.
- To The Lighthouse (1927) was one of her masterpieces.
- She died in 1941.

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. How many are the red stripes in the American flag?
2. Cleopatra was an Egyptian in origin. True or false?

3. Give the names of the Scandinavian countries.

4. What was Magellans's ship called?

5. Who does the theory of "the end justifies the means" belong to?

6. Jerusalem was once called "Urushalim." What does this name mean?

7. Which country presented the Statue of Liberty to the U.S.?

\*\*\*\*

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

\*\* Please open the window and close the door.  
Arjou an taftah ash'shubbak wa-tuqfil al-bab.

\*\* Is there a table in the room?  
Hal toojad taawila fil-ghurfa?

\*\* Yes, there is a big one.  
Na'am, toojad waabidah kabirah.

\*\* They eat bread, butter, cheese and drink tea with milk.  
Homun ya'kuloon al-khubz, waz-zubb wal-jubb wa yashraboon ash-shay bil-baleeb.

\*\* Are these eggs fresh?  
Hal hatha al-bayd taazijan?

\*\* Do you like them boiled or fried?  
Hal tohibbohu masloqan am maqliyan

\*\* Don't eat bad eggs.  
La ta'kul baydan faasidan.

\*\* Yesterday I ate grilled fish.  
Ams akalt samak mashwi.

\*\* Good morning. Where's the nearest restaurant?  
Sabahul khair, Ayna Aqrah mataam?

\*\*\*\*

### JOKES

\* My sister was still in the maternity hospital and we were outside waiting for the news when the nurse suddenly appeared and shouted: "Hot water, hot water."  
"Has the baby been born?" I inquired.  
"No, not yet. I just want to drink tea!" answered the nurse very coolly.

\*\*\*

\* Policeman: (To a lad carrying a bundle under each arm)  
"Stop there! What's that under your arm?"  
Lad: "What do you think it could be, sir. Naturally, it's HAIR and not FEATHER!"

## Doctors: Religious belief helps healing process

BOSTON (R) — Most family physicians believe that religious convictions can contribute to the healing process, according to a survey to be released Monday. The survey of 269 family doctors, conducted by Yankelovich Partners at the October meeting of the American Academy of Family Physicians, found that 99 per cent of those asked said religion could actually make people healthier.

Through the ages physicians have witnessed recoveries they can't attribute solely to medical procedures, said Dr. Herbert Benson, head of the Mind/Body Medical Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston.

"Now, many physicians are beginning to hold that belief can have a profound influence on health and well-being and they see it as an integral part of their traditional treatment plan."

Some 91 per cent of the doctors surveyed reported they had had patients who sought the aid of a spiritual leaders, such as a rabbi, priest or minister, to help with their medical problem.

The survey's results are to be released as part of a three-day conference on spirituality and healing at Harvard Medical School.



## Arts &amp; Culture

Jordan Times, Thursday, December 19, 1996 C

## Prince of Wales is 'guiding light' of Islamic arts course

By Amicia de Moubray

SO SUCCESSFUL is the Islamic course at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture that one recent graduate is to start a similar course at Joffa's, University of Amman, and the institute's deputy director has been asked to consult at the University of Malaysia.

The two-year Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts (VITA) Masters Degree was created at the institute in 1990 at the request of the Prince of Wales, who is a great admirer of Islamic art.

The institute's director, Professor Keith Critchlow, who is an Islamic scholar of international repute, says that the prince is "a guiding light, very supportive and shows a keen interest in the work."

## Reciprocal respect

"There is a wonderful reciprocal respect between the prince, the Islamic World and the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts Department," says Prof. Critchlow, whose enthusiasm for his subject is such that one can easily understand the respect he commands from his students, both past and present.

The two-year VITA Master Degree course was founded by Prof. Critchlow at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in 1984. "The Prince

of Wales got to know about what I was doing and asked me to help run a summer school in 1980 which in turn led to me being asked to bring the RCA course to the Institute of Architecture in 1992," he explains.

It is a mark of the high international esteem in which VITA is now held that one ex-student has been asked to start a similar course at the University of Amman, and Paul Marchant, the deputy director and senior tutor, has been asked to consult at the University of Malaysia that is also setting up a course in Islamic studies.

"The aim of VITA is to encourage an awareness among the students that form, pattern and colour as manifested in the various branches of Islamic art (or any other traditional art) are not simply aesthetically pleasing or demonstrations of good design but embody a profound beauty — the beauty of the permanent that shines through in the world of the transient.

## Importance of geometry

"Students are taught that geometry is considered to be the most important underlying structural skill and other classes offered include calligraphy, letter carving in stone, architectural drawing, gold-leafing,



Filiz Livali is pictured working with gold leaf in the VITA (Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts) department at the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, London. In the foreground is an example of her work, *Earth, The Carpet*

paper making, textile techniques and stained glass.

"So many of the world's sacred traditions and traditional art forms have already been destroyed; it is one of the objectives of the

department to work on a practical solution to the threat of extinction faced by the traditional arts."

VITA is believed to be the only course of its kind in the world but, as Prof. Critch-

low perceptively points out, it probably takes a Western eye to realise how valuable the Islamic heritage of patterns and traditional art forms is. "Islamic craftsmen have not published books

about their work. My book, *Islamic Pattern*, was believed to be the first book of its kind to be published," he says.

VITA attracts substantial funding from all over the

world and this has been attributed to the popularity of the prince in the Islamic World. Prof. Critchlow says the prince attends course shows and is very supportive of the work being undertaken.

## Rich history

VITA is open to post-graduate applicants with a first degree or equivalent achievement to first-degree level. As Mark Mills, who graduated from VITA last June, explains: "As a trained letterer, studying the traditional arts of Islam — with its rich history of calligraphy forming a chain of unbroken study and practised for hundreds of years — was a revelation."

The other three graduates this year are Stephen Windsor-Cline, a mosaicist inspired by Byzantine and Islamic patterns; Una Goodman, whose ceramics and glass are inspired by the Celtic tradition; and Justin Hedley, who paints panels in the medieval Italian tradition as well as ceramics inspired by early Islamic pottery.

The diverse range of skills each student possesses makes for a lively and stimulating exchange of ideas and knowledge between the students.

Prof. Critchlow adds: "The work of VITA demonstrates that students from

different backgrounds and traditions can work well together, learning from each other's knowledge and experience. And, most importantly, through the study of the objective language of geometry they can understand the universal basis underlying the art and architecture of the great traditions of the world — whether it is Islamic, Christian, Buddhist, North American Indian, Hindu and so on. Islamic art is predominantly concentrated on as it is one of the few remaining living traditions."

At present, there are places for six students. Applicants have to send in a portfolio of their work before they are selected for interview. If they live in a remote part of the world and have difficulty affording the journey to London, then they can be interviewed by telephone. In the past few years there have been applicants from North America, India, Egypt, Malaysia, Turkey, Iran and Morocco as well as those from Britain.

Prof. Critchlow adds: "I hope that VITA offers some practical support in helping to restore cultural dignity, offering a livelihood and also in creating teachers. And that in the process it is hoped that a greater understanding and tolerance between cultures is established." — London Press Service.

## Crowded field makes for intense Oscar competition

By Lynn Elber  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Picture Madonna striking this pose: Gracefully accepting the best actress Oscar for *Evita* come March.

The prospect may be enough to send the pop icon's fans into a frenzy, but they're best advised to restrain their enthusiasm.

While Madonna is getting a modest share of Oscar buzz, she's got serious competition.

A host of critically acclaimed films, many featuring juicy performances from veteran actresses, are vying for Academy Award nominations. Bullfrogs go out on Jan. 8, with the nominations to be announced on Feb. 11.

Academy voters have a rich field to consider, including likely best-picture contenders *Shine*, *The English Patient* and *The Crucible*.

"It's definitely a wide-open year," said Mark Gill of Miramax, which hopes to garner multiple nominations for its World War II romantic epic *The English Patient* and nods for several other films.

Consistently solid reviews, industry word-of-mouth and respectable box-office grosses can help nudge a picture toward Oscar gold. But it's a lucky film that's also gifted with a promotional budget.

*Lone Star*, a small jewel of a drama from filmmaker John Sayles (*The Secret Of Roan Inish*, *Eight Men Out*) that opened last June, is getting a Tiffany-style Oscar campaign from distributor Sony Pictures Classics.

To improve the odds of a nomination, Sony sent out

videocassettes of *Lone Star* two months ago to Academy members, trying to get out ahead of the other films certain to crowd voters' mailboxes.

"Another key to our campaign was to keep the film on the screen as long as possible," Sony Pictures Classics Co-President Michael Barker said. "In Los Angeles, it's never been off the screen since June 21."

An Oscar bid "would mean a lot to John Sayles," Barker said. "What would please him the most is that any kind of Oscar recognition would cause the film to be seen by a wider audience."

For Sony, the greater pleasure undoubtedly is fiscal: *Lone Star*, an intricate, passionate tale of life in a Texas border town, could add substantially to its \$13 million take with attention from Oscar.

Miramax's *The Crying Game*, for example, grossed about \$20 million before it received multiple Oscar nominations; receipts rose to about \$63 million afterward. Grosses for Columbia's *The Last Emperor* climbed from \$11 million to \$45 million with Oscar nods.

"That's just the beginning of where the money comes in," Gill said. "Then there's home video, where you can double or triple what you might otherwise do, especially if you win."

Add international receipts, and you're talking real money. The most rewarding award is Best Picture, which represents "the big bump, with far and away the most impact on the economics of a movie," Gill said.

Here, culled from rampant industry speculation, is a list of leading contenders and less-certain hopefuls for nominations in top categories:

## Best Picture

*Breaking The Waves*, *The Crucible*, *The English Patient*, *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*, *Shine*.

Hopefuls: *Big Night*, *Evita*, *Fargo*, *Ghosts Of Mississippi*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Lone Star*, *William Shakespeare's Romeo And Juliet*, *Secrets And Lies*, *Trainspotting*.

## Best Actor

Daniel Day-Lewis, *The Crucible*; Ralph Fiennes, *The English Patient*; Liam Neeson, *Michael Collins*; Ron Rifkin, *Substance Of Fire*; Geoffrey Rush, *Shine*.

Hopefuls: Tom Cruise, *Jerry Maguire*; Ossie Davis, *I'm Not Rappaport*; Woody Harrelson, *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*; Walter Matthau, *I'm Not Rappaport*; Billy Bob Thornton, *Slingblade*; Denzel Washington, *Courage Under Fire*.

## Best Actress

Frances McDormand, *Fargo*; Debbie Reynolds, *Mother*; Winona Ryder, *The Crucible*; Gena Rowlands, *Unhook The Stars*; Kristin Scott Thomas, *The English Patient*.

Hopefuls: Brenda Blethyn, *Secrets And Lies*; Laura Dern, *Citizen Ruth*; Goldie Hawn, *First Wives Club*; or Everyone Says I Love You; Diane Keaton, *Marvin's Room*; Nicole Kidman, *Portrait Of A Lady*; Courtney Love, *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*; Madonna, *Evita*; Helen Mirren, *Some Mother's Son*; Gwyneth Paltrow, *Emma*.

## Best Supporting Actor

Samuel L. Jackson, *A Time To Kill*; Edward Norton, *Primal Fear* Or *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*; Gary Sinise, *Ransom*; Paul Scofield, *The Crucible*; James Woods, *Ghosts Of Mississippi*.

Hopefuls: Willem Dafoe, *The English Patient*; Cuba Gooding Jr., *Jerry Maguire*; Kris Kristofferson, *Lone Star*; Armin Mueller-Stahl, *Shine*.

## Best Supporting Actress

Joan Allen, *The Crucible*; Lauren Bacall, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*; Juliette Binoche, *The English Patient*; Ellen Burstyn, *Spitfire Grill*; Barbara Hershey, *Portrait Of A Lady*.

Hopefuls: Julie Christie, *Hamlet*; Mary Tyler Moore, *Flirting With Disaster*; Meg Ryan, *Courage Under Fire*; Meryl Streep, *Marvin's Room*.

## Director

Milos Forman, *The People Vs. Larry Flynt*; Scott Hicks, *Shine*; Nicholas Hytner, *The Crucible*; Anthony Minghella, *The English Patient*.

Hopefuls: Jane Campion, *Portrait Of A Lady*; Joel Coen, *Fargo*; Herb Gardner, *I'm Not Rappaport*; Ron Howard, *Ransom*; Mike Leigh, *Secrets And Lies*; Alan Parker, *Evita*; Rob Reiner, *Ghosts Of Mississippi*; John Sayles, *Lone Star*; Billy Bob Thornton, *Slingblade*; Jerry Zaks, *Marvin's Room*.

## Beirut's former war zone inspires rock stars

By Hisham Haddadin  
Reuters

BEIRUT — Beirut, which shook for years to the roar of big guns, is rocking to a different tune these days.

Electric guitars and hard rock percussion are joining the wreckers' balls and pneumatic drills on the former green line battlefield where the Kalashnikov rifle and the rocket-propelled grenade once ruled supreme.

Scorpions, the legendary German hard rock band, is the latest in a string of international rock groups and pop stars to play Beirut since the 1975-90 civil war.

Their adrenaline-pumping concert was the most lavish in the Lebanese capital to date, with ear-splitting guitar solos and a thundering rhythm section.

## Positive vibes

"Beirut, there is no city like you," lead singer Klaus Meine bellowed to 15,000 screaming fans at the Beirut forum, a recently built exhibition hall.

The fans, who paid up to 65,000 Lebanese pounds (\$41) or a quarter of the Lebanese minimum monthly wage, were mesmerised by the raw rock hits.

"It is a very positive vibe here. I think everybody and everything is set out for the future, for a better future," Meine told reporters.

Earlier, the Scorpions moved to the former battlegrounds to mime a video clip amid the ruins.

Armed with strato-casters, flying-Vs and 16-mm cameras, the German rockers shot a clip in a war-gutted hotel overlooking the sea at the northern end of the former green line.

None of the grand hotels at the core of Lebanon's thriving pre-war tourist industry has been rebuilt yet, although the government is putting in new roads, tunnels, bridges, electricity, telephone and sewage lines all around them.

Motorists driving past the former hotels district saw a leather-clad Meine lip-synching before the camera on a makeshift stage

in front of the ruined, 20-storey Phoenix Hotel.

Inside the building, a blonde beauty in a see-through dress swayed atop a white stallion as guitarists Matthias Jabs and Rudolf Schenker played before a backdrop of more wrecked hotels.

They were making the video for Scorpions' latest single, *When You Came Into My Life*.

## Inspired by Lebanon

Band members said the revival of life they witnessed in Lebanon on the last leg of a world tour — their first appearance in the Middle East — might inspire a new song.

"I think coming here for the first time will be an inspiration maybe there will be a song about this business here for the next album," Meine told reporters.

The band's 1989 hit ballad *Winds Of Change* — a symbol of the end of the cold war era — was the biggest crowd-pleaser at the three-hour Beirut show.

But Jabs' and Schenker's dual-guitar assault on vintage songs like *Rock Like A Hurricane* and *Black Out* and the new Wild Child also had Beirut's generation X-ers jumping in the air.

"This event shows that winds of change are always somewhere over Beirut. So let us take you far away because you and I need a holiday," Beirut impresario Nagi Baz told the fans in a pun on the lyrics of the Scorpions' 1980s hit *Holiday*.

Scorpions was the first Western band to play the Kremlin — at Mikhail Gorbachev's invitation — in 1991. Other highlights of their 25-year career include the legendary 1990 The Wall show at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate attended by Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Despite a heavy security escort, the five band members were relaxed, joking and signing autographs at a news conference in Beirut's newly opened Hard Rock Cafe, itself a sign of the rapidly changing times in the reviving capital.

Only four-and-a-half years ago two

Germans, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kempfner, were the last Western hostages freed by Muslim militants after a rash of kidnappings during the civil war.

War-weary Lebanese first began getting a taste of international groups after 16 years of war in 1992 when Mexico's Lucia Mendez came to Beirut and nervously performed a show hours after a car bomb killed three people outside the stadium.

Since then a stream of chart-toppers have come as security improves steadily in Lebanon.

They have included Rodney, Dr. Alban, Chris De Burgh, Samantha Fox, Demis Roussos and Patricia Kaas. But Lebanese fans are still waiting for U.S. bands, who are unable to visit Lebanon due to an 11-year-old U.S. State Department ban on travel to the country.

## Thoughts for this week

The lesson of history is rarely learned by the actors themselves.

— James A. Garfield, 20th president of the United States (1831-1881).

Real stories, in distinction from those we invent, have no author. Although history owes its existence to men, it is not "made" by them.

— Hannah Arendt, German-born author, philosopher and historian (1906-1975).

Nothing is so useless as a general maxim.

— Thomas Macaulay, English historian (1800-1859).

It is only the poor who are forbidden to beg.

— Anatole France, French author and critic (1844-1924).

Think wrongly if you please, but in all cases, think for yourself.

— Gotthold Lessing, German dramatist-critic (1729-1781).

## Director stopped from picking up Chinese 'Oscar' award

By Lawrence Chung  
Agence France Presse

TAIPEI — In *The Heat Of The Sun*, by mainland China director Jiang Wen, scooped six Golden Horse prizes in the Chinese-speaking movie industry's top award night.

But a boycott ordered by the Beijing authorities stopped Jiang from going to Taiwan Saturday night to collect his Golden Horse for best director and Xia Yu to collect her award as best actress.

Hong Kong actress Josephine Siao was named best actress for the second straight year, and then announced she would quit movies after finishing two projects underway because of increasing hearing problems.

Organisers allowed mainland Chinese movies to enter for the first time in 33 years of the awards, but Beijing, which has considered Taiwan a renegade province since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, stopped eight Chinese-made movies being considered.

In *The Heat Of The Sun*, the story of adolescents growing up in the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, got through

the net as it was part financed by Hong Kong and Taiwan companies.

Jiang's movie also received the Best Cinematography, Best Screenplay and Best Sound Effects awards.

The festival, held this year in the southern city of Kaohsiung, is the Chinese version of the Oscars with all Chinese-speaking movies from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Singapore invited to compete.

The award committee expressed disappointment at the Chinese boycott. "Movies are movies, and politics is politics," said Li You-Ning, secretary general of the committee, who emphasised that the awards were about art.

An overjoyed Jiang was reported by Taiwan's Min Sheng daily as saying in Nanjing, China that he felt "a little embarrassed" upon learning that his movie had won so many prizes.

Josephine Siao won the Best Actress Award for the second year running for her role in the film *Stage Door*. She plays a traditional Chinese opera performer specialising in male roles who offstage transforms herself into a devoted mother.

"It's a thrill to win again," the 48-year-old Siao said. "Thank you for assuring me again, especially when I am facing my middle-age crisis."

Siao was an award presenter and had to give the trophy to herself. Before revealing the result, her co-presenter, Hong Kong kungfu star Jackie Chan, teased Siao by asking her to read the name in the envelope.

Siao, who has appeared in more than 230 movies, told reporters she would quit movies after finishing two currently being produced.

"Not because I want to retire because I am old, but because my hearing ability is fading every day," she said.

Siao who has been troubled by bad hearing for several years, said if she still hoped to stay active outside of movies.

The best supporting actor went to Taiwan's Wang Chi-Zian for his role in *Mahjong* while the best supporting actress was Taiwan's Chiou Shio-Min for her role in *Ah-Chung*.



## Weight loss strategy

**By Nadia Mukhlis**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

OBESITY is an illness, an obsessive-compulsive disorder that is curable with medicine, said Ronald A. Ruden, a New York City internist specialising in weight management, in an article published in a health magazine last May.

"It is caused by a range of problems, including an inactive metabolism that results in a compulsive desire to eat and may in some people be inherited," Dr. Ruden quoted.

Because obesity can be determined by biology, permanent weight changes are seldom achieved by diet and exercise, says Dr. Ruden.

The latest research shows that obsessive thoughts about food may also have neurochemical basis.

Many obese people have low levels of serotonin, a brain hormone that affects hunger and mood.

The new diet-drug fenfluramine (brand name Pondimin) works by increasing serotonin levels, thus lowering feelings of hunger at inappropriate times.

Dr. Ruden prescribes fenfluramine in a combination with a second drug, phentermine (brand name Ionamin).

Both have been available for 20 years but only recently been used in combination to treat obesity.

Phentermine which affects another brain chemical, dopamine, works by enhancing feeling of fullness.

"The combination is more effective than either drug alone," Dr. Ruden said.

Until a few years ago doctors feared prescribing fenfluramine and other appetite suppressants because of the medical establishment's distrust of diet pills widely distributed in the seventies. Not only were the drugs addictive, they didn't work.

But in 1992 after five years of studies by Michael Weintraub, M.D. at the University of Rochester Clinical Pharmacology Department, the new diet drug was produced and studies showed that the drug effectively and safely eliminates food craving and thus controls appetite

and because obese people are at greater risk of developing cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, gall-bladder problems and osteoarthritis, the drug has improved their health.

In Dr. Weintraub's study, the First Trial of a Combination of Drug Intervention for Obesity, a group of participants received small doses of fenfluramine and phentermine, following a programme of regular exercise and a sensible diet, lost 16 per cent of their weight and kept it off for three and a half years.

The study showed few adverse side effects which do not affect the majority of users, among them headaches, dry-mouth, diarrhoea, drowsiness and sleep disturbance (insomnia).

Dr. Jack L. Katz, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York, prescribes fenfluramine when he finds a history of obesity in the family and insists on giving it to chronically over-weight people who need to lose over 15 kilos.

However few people are advised to avoid fenfluramine, like pregnant women, diabetics and patients treated for depression.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) advises the drug to be used for three months at a time.

Researchers at The Rockefeller University in New York City, discovered last year a gene named the "OB Gene" in mice that appears to regulate body fat.

Animals in which the OB Gene is removed or disabled quickly become obese, the study showed.

When the gene is working, researchers say it produces a protein called "the OB Protein," discharged by fat cells in the body, that signals the brain when the person has had enough to eat.

Researchers are still in early stages yet scientists are hopeful that in a few years the OB Protein will be used to regulate weight in humans.

## U.S. specialists say medical priorities should change

**NEW YORK (AFP)** — International medical specialists called for a change in medical priorities, saying that millions of people will continue to suffer as resources are dedicated to high-tech solutions instead of emphasising public health and disease prevention.

The specialists, doctors and researchers from 14 nations as diverse as Germany and Indonesia, said in their manifesto that current medical practices are taking a wrong turn by developing expensive equipment in the face of health budget cutbacks worldwide.

They also highlighted the fact that only the privileged classes in the industrialised nations have access to such care.

In addition, such advances in medicine have failed to eradicate illness and often create new problems brought on through extended life expectancy.

The document, sponsored by the Hastings Centre, an independent think tank for medical issues, recommended four directions for medicine.

According to the participants, advances should be made on:

- The prevention of disease and injury, and promotion and maintenance of health.
  - The relief of pain and suffering caused by maladies.
  - the care and cure of those with a malady, and the care of those who cannot be cured, and
  - the avoidance of premature death and the pursuit of a peaceful death.
- Every disease cannot be cured and the efforts needed to research treatment for all diseases, often at the expense of the improvement of the quality of life, can in fact have a negative effect on the health of the population in general, they said.
- "Medicine must maintain a healthy tension between a struggle against death and the acceptance of deaths as the destiny of all human beings," the document stated.
- Medical education must be transformed, the statement said, adding that "medical students should be taught the multi-level sources of disease which has social, economic, and environmental dimensions as well as molecular and genetic origins."

## Study finds most patients do well without blood transfusions

**By Linda A. Johnson**  
*The Associated Press*

TRENTON, New Jersey — Bloodless surgery, gaining popularity because of religious caveats against blood transfusions and general fears of contracting infections, is getting another boost from research showing that patients who refuse transfusions generally fare well.

That's the conclusion of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study done by Dr. Jeffrey L. Carson and colleagues at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

"In recent years, there's been a push to limit blood use," partly because of lingering fears about contracting AIDS and other blood-borne diseases, said Dr. Carson, professor and chief of the division of general internal medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick.

Jehovah's Witnesses, who oppose blood transfusions because of Biblical precepts about the sacredness of blood, have pushed doctors and hospitals for better medical care without transfusions.

That pressure spurred doctors at Englewood Hospital two years ago to create the New Jersey Institute for the Advancement of Bloodless Medicine and Surgery. It has banded some 1,500

medical and surgical cases, 90 per cent of them Jehovah's Witnesses.

In a study published recently in the British medical journal *Lancet*, Dr. Carson and colleagues examined the case records of 1,958 adult Jehovah's Witnesses who underwent surgery without transfusions from 1981-94 at 12 U.S. hospitals, including Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and Cooper Hospital-University Medical Centre in Camden.

"When you look at the overall mortality rates, it says that most patients do well and that withholding blood may be a safe way of treating them," Dr. Carson said.

His study found that only about 3 per cent of the Jehovah's Witnesses patients died within a month of surgery, but the risk of death was 4.3 times higher in those with heart disease than those without. The death rate was about 25 times higher for patients with a hemoglobin count half of normal than for those near normal. Hemoglobin is the molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen to the body's tissues.

Dr. Carson is seeking another grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for a study of thousands of patients comparing outcomes of

## Right-to-die issues moved to center stage in 1996

**By David Lawder**  
*Reuters*

DETROIT — The worldwide debate on assisted suicide and euthanasia reached fever pitch in 1996, with Jack Kevorkian, U.S. courts and Australia's Northern Territory pushing the practice closer to a legitimate medical service.

The U.S. Supreme Court has taken up the issue and is expected to rule next year in what many legal experts view as a landmark personal rights decision — whether an individual has a constitutional right to seek help in dying.

The decision whether to affirm appeals court rulings striking down state laws banning assisted suicides in New York and Washington states may be as far-reaching and as controversial as the 1973 Roe versus Wade case legalising abortion.

"I think 1997 is going to be the year to decide if one way or the other," said Patrick Keenan, a constitutional law professor at the University of Detroit. "I predict that there will be some sort of affirmation" of the right to assisted suicide.

In the United States, that decision would set in motion a huge debate on how to regulate assisted suicide and build in safeguards against abuses. Michigan State Senator John Schwarz, a Republican who is the only physician serving in the legislature, said each state would have to pass laws governing the practice, a move he calls "tragic."

"If the Supreme Court affirms assisted suicide, it is going to be a growth industry. You will see physicians who specialise in it," he said.

In the Netherlands, where euthanasia and assisted suicide are technically illegal but tolerated under certain guidelines, demand for the service is increasing. A recent study showed that patients' requests for help to die have grown 37 per cent in the last five years to 34,500. Requests for immediate euthanasia rose by nine per cent to 9,700.

Doctors reported 1,466 cases of euthanasia in 1995, but an estimated 1,734 other "mercy killings" went unreported. The study is expected to form the basis of new Dutch legislation to further legitimise the practice.

### Kevorkian's crusade

Dr. Kevorkian, the top U.S. assisted-suicide activist, was relentless in his crusade during 1996, and his methods drew a storm of controversy.

The 68-year-old retired pathologist was twice acquitted in 1996 on charges that he violated unwritten Michigan common law banning assisted suicide. Emboldened by the not-

guilty verdicts, he embarked on his most active period to date, attending 19 suicides. He has admitted helping at least 45 people to die since 1990.

He sought to lend an air of medical professionalism to his practice by leaving the bodies at hospital emergency rooms, but his screening methods drew sharp criticism when he attended the death of chronic fatigue syndrome patient Judith Curran in August. Curran, of Pembroke, Massachusetts, had lodged abuse charges against her husband and had suffered no life-threatening diseases, according to medical examiners.

New charges against Dr. Kevorkian — including those accusing him of illegally obtaining drugs and practising medicine without a licence — have slowed his activity in recent months. He faces trial again in rural Iowa, Michigan, in February, but legal experts say that without a specific statute, juries will continue to find him not guilty.

Even Iowa County Prosecutor Raymond Voet, who will try the case, said he would like more specific guidance on assisted suicide. "It would be nice if the legislature would decide once and for all whether we want it to be illegal or legal," he said.

### The Australian experience

Meanwhile, Australia's remote outback Northern Territory became the first place in the world to fully legalise assisted suicide when its voluntary euthanasia law went into effect in July amid much controversy.

Bob Dent, a 66-year-old former carpenter suffering from cancer, became the first and only person to take advantage of the law so far. The one-time Christian missionary died quietly in his home in the state capital, Darwin, on Sept. 22 in the presence of his physician.

But doctors remain reluctant to practice euthanasia because they fear the law will not survive a welter of legal and political challenges.

Although opinion polls show 75 per cent of Australians back the measure, it has been strongly condemned by religious, Aboriginal and political leaders, including conservative Prime Minister John Howard.

The first major challenge is a private parliamentary motion which would allow Australia's national government to use its constitutional powers to quash the legislation. The move is expected to pass Australia's lower house, but faces a more uncertain future in the Senate, where a final vote is not expected until March at the earliest.

## Doctors make second break in limb to cure first

LONDON (R) — British Orthopaedic surgeon Roger Atkins developed the new technique at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and has now tried it out on almost 200 patients.

"By creating an artificial break near the top of the leg, we can actually regrow the bone and soft tissue," he told the Sunday Times newspaper.

The technique also helped with infected bones. A second breakage helped to encourage more blood flow to the area to defeat the infection.

But doctors found that by creating a second fracture, the process was switched back on.

The technique helps to "kick-start" the body's healing process and can save victims from amputation.

## ANSWERS PUZZLES

VIRGINIA WOOLF is the name of the novelist.

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- Seven.
- She was Greek.
- Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.
- Victoria.
- Niccolò Machiavelli.
- Peace Protector.
- France.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

**TWO-TIMERS**  
*By Frances Burton*

- ACROSS**
- 1 A — of thousands
  - 2 Use a rubber
  - 3 Young truly
  - 4 Seaweed
  - 5 Tennis's Arthur
  - 6 Analyze
  - 7 — in cups
  - 8 Bay window
  - 9 — in cups
  - 10 River in Hades
  - 11 Plan
  - 12 Clasp's arm
  - 13 Variation look
  - 14 Day's slapping
  - 15 Sighs
  - 16 From one end of the country to the other
  - 17 Go wrong
  - 18 Horse MC
  - 19 Record in player
  - 20 — instant (immediately)
  - 21 Money division
  - 22 Fur of old
  - 23 More efficient
  - 24 Printed version
  - 25 Toronto
  - 26 Fortnightly card
  - 27 Teller's westerners
  - 28 State of self
  - 29 Countersunk
  - 30 Contention
  - 31 White the board
  - 32 Catalogue
  - 33 Jamboes
  - 34 Beauty shop
  - 35 Hiss in
  - 36 Is situated
  - 37 Tasty product
  - 38 Poodle's ear
  - 39 Sense weaver
  - 40 Shine strongly
  - 41 Small child
  - 42 Push back
  - 43 Accommodate
  - 44 Baited
  - 45 Skin style
  - 46 — in cups
  - 47 Surveys
  - 48 Object of worship
  - 49 Philippines island
  - 50 Pie — mode
  - 51 Theatrical author
  - 52 White wine
  - 53 Unfilled
  - 54 Beach, FL
  - 55 Maine college town
  - 56 Teacher's aide
  - 57 UCLA player
  - 58 Crap game
  - 59 Kind of acid
  - 60 Circle or semicircle
  - 61 Kind of salesman
  - 62 Agony
  - 63 Highway
  - 64 Couches
  - 65 Acquire business
  - 66 Gravelled
  - 67 New's fan deck
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  - 669 (Inconspicuously)
  - 670 "A" for —
  - 671 More terrible
  - 672 Way
  - 673 Mr. Flanagan
  - 674 Like sports
  - 675 Surrounding
  - 676 Musical instrument
  - 677 TV sitcom
  - 678 Scented
  - 679 Shendies
  - 680 Circle or semicircle
  - 681 Kind of salesman
  - 682 Agony
  - 683 Highway
  - 684 Couches
  - 685 Acquire business
  - 686 Gravelled
  - 687 New's fan deck
  - 688 Flimsy
  - 689 (Inconspicuously)
  - 690 "A" for —
  - 691 More



## Government rejects charges over ministers' foreign visits

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government on Wednesday rejected accusations of negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of ministers saying that the charges levelled by Deputy Nazih Ammarin (Karak) against members of the Cabinet were neither substantiated nor valid.

Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour, the most senior member of the Cabinet after the prime minister, was replying to a complaint filed by opposition Deputy Ammarin on the frequency of foreign trips undertaken by ministers and expenses incurred from such visits as well as the negative impact caused by their absence from their ministries.

Deputy Ammarin contended during a question-and-answer session of the Lower House of Parliament that most of the ministers were travelling for

long periods of time outside the country leaving unfinished business behind. Jordanian citizens could not get on with their work because ministers left behind paperwork that need approval," Dr. Ammarin said.

"Why do we see ambassadors of other countries here attend conferences and sign agreements (on behalf of their countries) while our ministers themselves have to travel to perform such activities abroad?" Deputy Ammarin said. "Why could not our ambassadors do the job instead of sending ministers whose expenses we can't afford? Why wouldn't the ministers delegate other employees to go in their place?"

Deputy Ammarin accused all ministers, except for the Ministry of Education, of inefficiency.

"It is not true that ministers jump to any invitation they receive," Dr. Ensour replied.

He said the deputy's question was

written and addressed to the government last year, urging him to be more specific in queries next time if he needed more information.

Islamic Action Front Deputy Basam Emoush questioned the government about the procedures adopted and standards followed by the Foreign Ministry in its selection of candidates who wish to join the diplomatic service.

Dr. Ensour said on behalf of the government that there is no discrimination in the selection process adding that all candidates sit for the foreign service exam that is usually supervised by the University of Jordan.

In an answer to another question by Dr. Emoush on drug-related cases in Jordan, Minister of Interior Awad Kileilat said that 309 people that were involved in 138 cases of trafficking were arrested this year, and 261 of them were Jordanians.

## Crown Prince calls for collective Arab action

(Continued from page 1)

which ended here yesterday, Prince Hassan stressed the dire need for establishing a mechanism for conflict settlement in the Arab and Muslim worlds which he said are plagued by crises and border conflicts.

"The establishment of a conflict resolution centre in the Arab World is a must... knowing that 80 per cent of the world's refugees are Muslims and that there are 16 border conflicts between Arab countries," the Crown Prince said.

"It is sad to note that there is no mechanism to solve these conflicts. On the contrary, these conflicts are intensifying to the extent that they are influencing people in their freedom of movement and their works."

Prince Hassan also pointed to the pressures emanating from the problem of refugees, saying that "we had to cope with a million and a half refugees."

"Within weeks, we in Jordan had to accommodate 78,000 students in elementary schools," said the

Crown Prince, pointing out that Jordan is hosting the largest number of Palestinian refugees.

The Crown Prince said that the number of funds the Arab World has spent on development is a fragment of its military expenditure.

"I don't want to talk about the differences in the standards of living between Arab countries nor about the discrepancy of water shares allocated to Arab citizens. But it is worthwhile to note that \$300 billion have been spent on armaments while \$35 billion are spent on food annually," he said.

In an answer to a question raised by Adel Taher from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) on the peace process and Israel's intransigent position towards the Palestinians, the Crown Prince said new and creative approaches are required for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan is committed to the pursuit of just and comprehensive peace on the basis

of United Nations resolutions and international legitimacy. He said Jordan will not be deterred from pursuing peace in the Middle East.

He said the policies of the Likud government in Israel have prompted Arabs to adopt a unified stand against them but hoped that the Arabs will maintain such unified positions.

"Probably the Israeli government had achieved what the Arabs could not achieve" on their own in terms of bringing them closer together, the Crown Prince said. "But does this stand reflect a strategy and a plan of action" or is it a temporary position that will not last?

The elections of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel in May has alarmed the Arab countries, prompting them to hold the Cairo summit in June which warned Israel that they will take collective action against its policies.

The Crown Prince said that political pluralism in the Arab World and the growing tendency of

accepting different opinions could become a major pillar of political development.

He said that pluralism had become a worldwide tendency that could not be ignored. "We have to plan for the future and bridge the gaps between the decision-makers and not only the intellectual but also the different layers of society as well."

"All political parties agree on the need for dialogue, peace and security and renounce violence," the Crown Prince said.

He stressed the need for enhancing democracy and dialogue.

"The Gulf crisis is a living example that resorting to force to solve Arab disputes can only lead to destruction," the Prince said.

Prince Hassan called for more coordination among Arab parties which should play larger roles in building their societies.

He called for the establishment of centres that would strengthen political parties' roles and participation in the political life.

## Chamber of Industry chief sees major shortcomings in draft budget

(Continued from page 1)

cheques.

He said 195,000 cheques bounced in 1991 while the number was more than 441,000 in 1995. He did not expect the number to be any less in 1996.

Mr. Abu Hassan detailed the troubles that befell many banks during the past ten years and blamed the changes in monetary policies and inefficient supervision for the bank crises that cost the Jordanian treasury no less than JD400 million.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the insurance sector was hit by the "unplanned and personal decision" to open the door for registering new companies in 1995 after a period when incentives were given for merging insurance companies. The

volume of annual premiums may drop from JD65 million to JD50 million this year, he said, stressing the decline in the quality of services, losses and inability of the insurance companies to invest as actively as before.

Mr. Abu Hassan pointed out that due to barriers in Jordan and the availability of more luring incentives in other countries, Jordanians have placed their investments in Romania, Canada, Egypt and Arab Gulf countries.

He said 894 firms were set up with Jordanian capital in Romania, and 150 Jordanian industries were set up in Egypt. In addition to investments worth billions of dollars in Canada and the Gulf states.

In the 1997 draft budget,

Mr. Abu Hassan wrote in his memorandum, the negative indicators were either overlooked or their importance minimised while positive indicators were exaggerated.

The memorandum assailed the budget and the finance minister's speech while presenting the budget to Parliament for not addressing measures to encourage exports and lower imports and to redress the worrying 50 per cent decline in the capital of newly formed companies in all sectors except the services sector.

Mr. Abu Hassan attributed the rise in the services sector to the inclusion of the recently privatised Jordan Electricity Authority and Telecommunications corporation in the list of

newly-established companies.

The memorandum concluded by bringing to the attention of the Finance Committee the following three key points:

- 1) Belittling the size of external debt by relating it to the year 1990 and avoiding the discussions on the increase of the debt in recent years.
- 2) Ignoring the fact that the returnees from the Gulf states were the main factors in the high economic growth in 1992 and 1993 and not the economic adjustment programme.
- 3) Risking a return of high unemployment as a result of the big drop in investment and the retreat in economic growth.

## Peru rebels dig in

(Continued from page 1)

the residence. It was not clear if the injured person was one of the guests at the reception or one of the guerrillas.

In a spectacular attack late on Tuesday, the guerrillas fired a rocket and sprayed bullets into the residence building before scaling walls and entering during the ensuing chaos, eyewitnesses and officials said.

A series of small explosions and gunfire were

heard as the rebels took control of the building in the middle-class, residential San Isidro area of Lima.

The hostages were forced to lie face-down on the floor for about 40 minutes.

Spanish Foreign Minister Abel Matutes urged Peru to avoid using military force to end the standoff, fearing it could lead to a massacre.

The Spanish charge d'affaires in Lima, Estanislao de Grandes, was among the hostages.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar contacted President Fujimori and asked him to use psychological tactics to persuade the hostage-takers to stand down, Mr. Matutes said in a radio interview.

Poland, whose charge d'affaires was among the hostages, said the health and well-being of the captives was the top priority.

Other diplomats being held were Germany's ambassador to Peru, who was with around 15 other hostages in a room of the residence, the German foreign ministry said in Bonn.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel set up a crisis centre to deal with the siege and ordered a crisis specialist from Bonn to fly to the Peruvian capital, the spokesman said.

Austria's ambassador to Peru was also being held

hostage, the Austrian foreign ministry said. A spokeswoman said the ambassador was with a handful of other hostages in one of the residence's bathrooms. "He's sitting in the bathtub with the Germans," she said.

In Paris, the French foreign ministry said there was one French diplomat among the hostages.

Colombian Foreign Minister Emma Maria Mejia, on a visit to Paris, offered her country's help in settling the siege.

"This is very serious... I believe that of course we could cooperate if it were necessary but we trust Peru can solve this problem," she told Reuters.

## Arab women feel excluded

(Continued from page 12)

to a political career, Mrs. Bashir asserted.

The delegates agreed on the need to change current political parties' programmes, which do not

accept "active women" and thus do not encourage them to increase their participation.

"Political organisations do not care about the changing roles of women within the society," Mrs.

Abu Khadra said.

However, she voiced that women's participation in politics will increase, as "the younger generation nowadays is granted more freedom and support from the authorities and the government."

"I am positive that in 10 or 20 years, a status of

equality between men and women in all respects will be feasible," she added.

Among the means to enhance women's role in politics, Mrs. Abu Khadra concluded, are conferences which especially tackle women's issues concerning political life.

## Israeli jets raid S. Lebanon

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli fighter jets blasted guerrilla positions in southern Lebanon Wednesday after a gun battle in which at least three guerrillas were killed, security sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) raid on the Hizbollah positions came minutes after fighting between Israeli forces and the guerrillas on the northeastern edge of the zone in South Lebanon that Israel occupies.

Sources inside the zone said the firefight started when Israeli forces positioned on hills overlooking the village of Akmata spotted guerrillas attempting to infiltrate the zone.

The Israelis opened fire, touching off a 30-minute exchange of with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The Israelis then called in air support. Three jet fighters fired six air-to-surface rockets and strafed suspected guerrilla hideouts just outside the Israeli-occupied zone, according to the security sources.

The sources said at least three guerrillas were killed in the firefight, but there was no word on casualties from the air raid, which the Akmata and the Mlita hills in the Iqlim Al

Tuffah province.

Israeli troops and their allied local militia, the South Lebanon Army, later fired scores of artillery shells at guerrilla-held villages abutting the zone, the sources said.

The Israelis occupy the 1,100-square-kilometre swath of South Lebanon along the border as what they consider a "security zone," carved out in 1985 to shield northern Israeli towns from cross-border attacks by guerrillas in Lebanon.

Hizbollah has been trying to evict the 1,200 Israeli soldiers and 2,500 allied militiamen from the enclave.

Wednesday's fighting came a day after a five-nation monitoring group completed its investigation of a Friday rocket attack on Israel.

The monitoring group said it considered the attack a violation of last April's U.S.-brokered ceasefire in South Lebanon. But the monitors did not pin the blame for the attack specifically on the Lebanese government or any guerrilla faction operating in the country.

The April understanding halted a 16-day Israeli bombing blitz against Hizbollah in southern Lebanon. At least 175 people, most of them Lebanese civilians, were killed.

## Jordanian-Tunisian meetings end with wide ranging agreement on cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians while he refuses to implement the accords and insisting on amending some of them.

Mr. Kabarti warned: "In the event of further deterioration and an explosion of the situation, Jordan will be the first country to suffer."

Jordan, he said, remains fully committed to the Middle East peace process and the principle of land-for-peace that launched Arab-Israeli peace negotiations at the Madrid conference in 1991.

"But how can we talk about security without talking about peace or about investments without stability?" he said.

Israel's policy of expanding settlements in the occupied territories "is a clear infringement on the rights of the Palestinian people and could ruin the chances for the final-status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians," he said.

Such a course of events, he said, will also pose danger to Jordan's national security.

"This is what we are going to emphasise to Mr. Levy," he said. "We will tell the Israeli government that the situation is no more tolerable and we cannot take two steps backward after moving a little step forward. What we need now is firm steps towards the implementation of agreements so that the final status negotiations can proceed."

that opposes peace."

"We are for peace and we will do all that we can to help the peace process proceed and succeed," said the prime minister. "No government can deter us from this course as we believe that this (peace) has to do with peoples and nations not with persons or attitudes and rhetorics."

Mr. Kabarti described as successful information Minister Marwan Muasher's visit to Israel last week. "Jordan conveyed its stand to the Israeli government, political parties and other organisations stressing that the peace process is a continuing process which is bound to encounter some difficulties now and then but our strategy remains the same."

Arab efforts to give momentum to the peace process "are increasing in intensity and should be coordinated with those of Europe and the United States because we believe that the spirit of peace is far stronger than the hostile forces which try to abort it and I believe that there, as hope, despite the present difficulties," said Mr. Kabarti.

that the Israeli forces occupying a border strip in South Lebanon could be replaced by peacekeeping troops that could include soldiers from Jordan and Egypt.

"Any decisions regarding the Jordanian Armed Forces is a concern of Jordan alone," he said.

"Jordan views peace as based on mutual respect and one that can be defended by the coming generations," said Mr. Kabarti, adding that when Jordan and Israel reached a peace treaty they decided not to deploy any foreign troops to police their borders.

"We hope that the same could be applied in Lebanon if peace is to be based on mutual interests and mutual confidence," said the prime minister.

Mr. Kabarti said the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee discussed issues pertaining to bilateral ties as well as peace in the region and regional and international issues.

He said that the talks revealed that the two sides hold identical views and the meeting was as a continuation of contacts for further coordination of stands.

Mr. Kabarti said he agreed with Dr. Karoui, who left for home later Wednesday, that the two countries should conclude a free trade agreement and also to support collective Arab action at all fronts.

Upon the conclusion of the joint committee's meeting in Amman, the two sides issued a statement summing up their deliberations that covered relations in trade, economy, industry, transport, tourism, health and other fields.

The minutes of a statement which was signed by the two prime ministers

pledged continued cooperation and joint work towards enhancing pan-Arab ties.

At the closing session Minister of Planning Rama Khalaf and Tunisian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saeed Ben Mustafa signed an agreement on cultural and scientific affairs. Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughini and Mr. Mustafa signed an agreement on cooperation in judicial affairs and the extradition of criminals.

Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi and Tunisian Minister of Transport Sadeq Rabeih signed an agreement on land transport. President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad and Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Hassan signed agreements with Tunisian counterparts in the private sector on implementing the programme of the joint-Jordanian Tunisian Business Council.

The minutes of the meeting covered agreements and measures for promoting trade, investments, land and maritime transport, tourism, culture, education and higher education, youth and sports, health, information, and administrative reform.

In the final statement the two sides said they viewed with concern the current standoff in the peace process and called for efforts on the part of the world community to ensure the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242, 338 and 423.

They also called for the resumption of the peace negotiations on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks and underlined the need for Europe as an important party that can help boost peace efforts.

## Pressure said to have prompted Israeli freezing of Ras Al Amud building plan

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem, including the enclave tunnel that runs along Muslim holy sites.

About 405,000 Jews and 160,000 Palestinians live in Jerusalem. The neighbourhood of Ras Al Amud is overcrowded, with an average of nine residents in each home.

Under the construction plan approved by city planners last week, Palestinian residents would be allowed to build 560 homes, but with more restrictions on height and density than in the Jewish neighbourhood.

Peace now, a left-wing group that monitors Jewish settlement construction, urged Mr. Netanyahu on Wednesday to come out publicly against the Ras Al Amud construction.

In Beit El, in the West Bank Jewish settlers on Wednesday laid a cornerstone for a new neighbourhood outside the settlement in what they said was their response to a drive-by shooting by Palestinian militants.

In last week's attack, two Jewish settlers from Beit El and her 12-year-old son were killed. Wednesday marked the end of the mourning period for Eeta and Efraim Tzur.

Immediately after the attack, settler leaders had demanded that the government authorise the construction of 1,000 new homes for Beit El in what they said would be an "appropriate" Zionist response. However, the government turned down the request.

Wednesday's laying of the cornerstone was seen largely as a symbolic step, since it was unlikely the settlers would openly challenge the government. The

settlements were instrumental in Mr. Netanyahu's election victory.

The cornerstone was laid on Artis hill, where a Palestinian was shot and killed by settlers last summer during land clashes.

Meanwhile, the chief of Palestinian police assured his Israeli counterpart Wednesday that progress was being made in the hunt for Palestinian radicals who killed a Jewish settler and her son last week.

General Ghazi Al Jabali told Israeli police chief Asaf Hefetz that police in self-rule areas had detained several suspects allegedly involved in the drive-by shooting against the settler family in which five persons were wounded, a spokeswoman from the public security ministry said.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

(PFLP) Organisation that opposes the peace process with Israel took responsibility for the attack near Beit El.

Palestinian police took control of the investigation within their self-rule territory, although Israel's political leadership has demanded that suspects be extradited.

Mr. Jabali and Hefetz met to discuss security cooperation and "re-establish confidence... after the violence in September," Israeli spokeswoman Linda Menuchman said.

She said Wednesday's talks would not deal with the sensitive issue of extradition.

"It is a political question and the police do not deal with it," she said, adding that Hefetz told Jabali the most important thing was to bring the perpetrators of the attack to trial.

## Gaps wide in talks — Erakat

(Continued from page 1)

were to leave four-fifth of Hebron by March 1996. However, in February and March bombings and the May election victory of Mr. Netanyahu held up the redeployment.

Mr. Netanyahu has insisted to renegotiate the terms of redeployment, saying he wanted better protection for the 430 Jewish settlers who live in the city of 120,000 Palestinians.

The Palestinians have

said they were ready to consider minor changes in the security arrangements, but would not reopen agreements already signed. More than two months of talks produced no results.

"I would say the major gaps are still there due to the fact that the Israeli government still wants to change the agreement," said Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who met twice this week with Mr. Netanyahu's attorney, Yitzhak Mlotcho.

"The moment Mr. Netanyahu takes a political decision to give his negotiators the green light to stop trying to change the agreement, we will have a mechanism for implementation within an hour," Mr. Erakat said.

Mr. Erakat noted that Hebron was not the only sticking point. Under the interim agreements, Israeli troops were to have pulled back from West Bank rural areas in three stages, with the withdrawal starting in September 1996 and being completed a year later.

Israel did not start the so-called "further redeployment," and Mr. Netanyahu has said he would prefer to skip that stage of the interim agreement and go directly to talks on a final peace accord. The Palestinians have rejected Israel's offer.

Mr. Netanyahu was to meet with Israeli negotiators Wednesday afternoon to discuss the next move in the talks with the Palestinians. One issue on the agenda was the further redeployment. Israel Radio reports said.



## Arab Gulf economy seen recording fastest growth since oil boom

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The economy of six Arab Gulf states is expected to record this year the fastest growth rate since the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s, when it hit 10 per cent annual growth, experts have said.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is set to leap by between five and eight per cent in 1996 because of a surge in crude oil prices and stronger activity by the private sector.

The oil sector alone has soared by around 15 per cent and will likely maintain that level by the end of the year as crude prices are projected to increase by nearly \$3 over 1995, the experts said.

"There is also higher activity in such sectors as the construction, trade and banking. The private sector is leading such activity," an economist said.

"In nominal terms, there will be an increase in the

GCC's GDP of between five and eight per cent. It is the highest overall rate in around 12 years," he pointed out.

Official forecasts have shown Saudi Arabia's GDP, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the total Arab economy, would grow by about six per cent in 1996 while there will be a growth of around 6.5 per cent in the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain have also issued optimistic outlooks while Oman expects its economy to jump by nearly 10 per cent as it has boosted its oil production and is locked in the widest reform programme in the region.

"There could be a growth of up to 10 per cent this year because of the high oil prices and the stronger activity by the private sector due to government encouragement," said Mahmoud Al Jarwani, director of the Muscat Stock Exchange.

Oil provides the bulk of

the income of the 15-year-old Gulf alliance and weak prices over the past decade have sharply slowed down its economy.

In some years, the GDP of several members recorded negative rates while it was galloping by between 10 and 20 per cent during the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s, when they launched a massive infrastructure drive.

The price of OPEC's basket of seven crudes is projected to average between \$19 and \$20 this year, far higher than the \$16.8 price in 1995.

Such an increase and the rise in Oman's output to around 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 1995 will boost the earnings of the economic, defence and political Gulf bloc to more than \$80 billion in 1996. It will be their highest income since the end of the oil boom.

Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest GCC member, is expected to earn nearly half

that income as it produces around 60 per cent of the GCC's total oil output.

Bankers said the excess funds would help the GCC countries to ease the deficit in their budgets and balance of payments, repay part of their debts, and replenish their international reserves, which have sharply eroded because of large Gulf war payments and withdrawals to shore up the deficits.

But they warned higher income could slow down reform programmes, which members have launched to repair economic damage caused by low oil prices.

"We hope the GCC countries will realise that the oil price improvement is only a temporary phenomenon. Therefore, the price increase should not prompt them to slacken the reforms, which have become essential for tackling economic problems and diversifying sources of income," a Gulf banker said.

## ILO says 250 million children are workers

GENEVA (R) — Child labour, prostitution and slavery are rising around the world and 250 million children are working full time in developing countries, double previous estimates, a United Nations report has said.

The report by the world body, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), said 61 per cent of child workers were in Asia, followed by Africa with 32 per cent and Latin America with seven per cent.

The ILO said the surge in the numbers was caused by the use of new methodology in collecting statistics from both households and enterprises as well as the inclusion of children under 10 years old for the first time.

Director-General Michel Hansenne said the ILO was aware that poverty was the major cause of child labour but urged governments to try to combat its most intolerable forms such as child prostitution, debt bondage and slavery.

of child labour today which are intolerable by any standard. These deserve to be identified, exposed and eradicated without any further delay," he said.

Some forced bondage practices still used today were nearly the same as chattel slavery of 200 years ago, the report said.

Children were still being sold for money or bought by landlords from their tenants in south and south east Asia and west Africa despite official denials, it added.

Girls from Latin America were being sold for sex to Europe and the Middle East, from south Asia to northern Europe and the Middle East and from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to Hungary, Poland and the Baltic states or to Western Europe, it said.

In Asia, one million children were victims of the sex trade, the report said. Thailand was a well-established route for trafficking in children and the prob-

lem was growing in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The ILO warned that sex tourism aimed at children was on the rise, and called for sanctions against sex tourists and the extension of national laws to plug escape routes for people committing sex crimes against children.

With rapid technological advances, the Internet was increasingly being used to disseminate child pornography, the report added. Many working children were exposed to dangerous chemical, and biological hazards which often affected their growth, the ILO said.

A survey in the Philippines found more than 60 per cent of working children exposed to health risks. In rural areas of the world, more children died of exposure to pesticides than from common childhood diseases, it said.

Child domestic workers were exposed to violence and sexual abuse. Indonesia had as many as five

million child domestic workers, including 400,000 in the capital Jakarta alone, and Sri Lanka had another 500,000, it said. In Venezuela, 60 per cent of the girls working between 10 and 14 years old were domestic workers.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle a boring responsibility today and later in the days ahead you can be with interesting friends and enjoy them. Later this evening will be a good time for you to meet with fellow associates and make additional plans of action.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A fellow associate could take up some of your time today, however, later you could make big strides in the outside world which could be prosperous. Later this evening will be good for spending some quality time with your mate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have some important career activities to do today, do them in an efficient manner and you can make a big-notice your accomplishments. Meet with outside contacts who have needed information to complete a new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June

REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5535	0.5983	1.3300	113.58	1.3657	1629.40	1.7440	5.2505
DE Mark	0.6437	1.0000	0.3847	0.8961	73.10	0.8785	983.66	1.1221	3.3784
GB Sterling	1.6714	2.5985	1.0000	2.2239	190.10	2.2826	2557.62	2.9163	8.7804
CHF Franc	0.7819	1.1680	0.4494	1.0000	85.36	1.0257	1148.72	1.3104	3.4451
JP Yen	0.0086	1.3666	0.5260	1.1705	1.0000	1.2014	13.45	153.37	4.6187
CA Dollar	0.7322	1.1416	0.4430	0.9718	1.20	1.0000	1125.59	1.2887	3.4451
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0161	0.3910	0.0870	1347.35	0.8931	11.41	1.4335	3.0081
NL Guilder	0.5734	0.9907	0.3427	0.7629	55.11	0.7829	876.43	1.0000	3.0081
FR Franc	0.1905	0.2958	0.1138	0.2534	21.61	0.2600	33.21	33.2100	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	24.85	24.85
WTI	25.55	25.55
Bony	24.85	24.85
Dubai	21.80	21.75
UL Gas	209.00	209.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4146	0.1595	0.3550	30.3113
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4234	0.1629	0.3635	30.9869
KW Dinar	3.3369	5.1694	1.9641	4.4424	378.363
BH Dinar	4.1237	1.5870	0.5832	1.3322	301.868
CY Pound	2.1178	3.2612	1.2684	2.8178	240.551

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (ozs)	365.9	369.4
Silver (ozs)	4.85	4.87
Platinum (ozs)	369.75	370.75
AL (3 Months)	1534	1535
CU (3 Months)	2100	2105
Zinc (3 Months)	1055	1057
Lead (3 Months)	696	700
NI (3 Months)	6500	6520

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Cncy	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	Year
USD	5.48	5.65	5.48	5.65	5.81
GBP	6.00	6.31	6.00	6.31	7.00
JPY	0.09	0.25	0.30	0.33	0.38
DEM	3.12	3.08	3.08	3.08	3.06
FRF	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.28
CHF	2.05	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.93
ITL	7.25	6.98	6.86	6.45	6.36

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High
New York	DOW JONES	6334.85	26.52	0.42	6344.85
New York	S&P 500	729.79	3.78	0.52	730.34
London	FT-SE 100	4010.8	31.2	0.78	4016.9

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (lb/ib)	114.87	Spot
Cocoa (lb/ib)	1339	Spot
Sugar (lb/ib)	308.8	Spot
Wheat (lb/ib)	110	Spot
Soy (lb/ib)	21.76	Spot
Rice (lb/ib)	125	Spot
Barley (lb/ib)	2.16	Spot
Rice (lb/ib)	470	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1826	1.1845
DE Mark	0.4566	0.4589
CHF Franc	0.4345	0.4377
FR Franc	0.1353	0.138
JP Yen	0.5226	0.5257
NL Guilder	0.407	0.409
IT Lira	0.4639	0.4659

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1996

22 to July 21) Instead of going out for pleasure today, get into more practical ways of improving your status in life. Later this evening you can meet with knowledgeable people and discuss your plan of action to make your career more successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't permit a family affair to deter you today from going out and meeting interesting personalities which could be beneficial to your career activities. Later this evening will be good for you to meet with fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A lender could hold up your progress today, so later this evening you can make up for lost time and thereby you can get much accomplished. This is a good time for you to meet with a bigwig and use his or her advice on being successful.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get rid of some monetary difficulty today and then you can enjoy a pleasure which has long been on your mind and for which you can participate in at this time. Later this evening you can spend time with your mate and be romantic.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try not to force your views on others today or there could be a difficult situation developing. Have guests in later this evening who are interesting and unusual so that you can make the entire time a worthwhile experience.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you fuss over what cannot be helped today, you can lessen your productivity and make more effort upon yourself for the same results. Enjoy new interests instead and thereby you can become quite successful in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid one today who gossips and get busy at practical affairs which have been put aside and need to be tackled. Study your home and improve it, so that you will be glad to invite friends and others over for some fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An outside affair should not upset you today, so avoid any difficult situations which could be present. Meet with interesting personalities later this evening and have fun together and maintain a festive atmosphere.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put that new idea aside for the moment. Instead, study the details of a new outlet which interests you and thereby you can gain the recognition of a bigwig and make your career activities much more prosperous.

you can become quite successful in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid one today who gossips and get busy at practical affairs which have been put aside and need to be tackled. Study your home and improve it, so that you will be glad to invite friends and others over for some fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An outside affair should not upset you today, so avoid any difficult situations which could be present. Meet with interesting personalities later this evening and have fun together and maintain a festive atmosphere.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put that new idea aside for the moment. Instead, study the details of a new outlet which interests you and thereby you can gain the recognition of a bigwig and make your career activities much more prosperous.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take no risks today in your career activities and try not to bother bigwigs for favours which could have detrimental consequences. Check your credit to make sure everything is proper so that you will have sufficient funds.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you change your ideas today, you may be labouring against yourself which could create difficulties. Try to be more loving with your mate and make him or her feel appreciated and special in your heart.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Try to please your mate today so that you won't encounter criticism later in the days ahead. Show that you are truly devoted to your loved ones later this evening by doing something special for them which will be greatly appreciated.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may think that a fellow associate is cold and self-seeking today, however, it's really objectivity you see. Later this evening will be a good time for you to go out on the town with close friends and have a good time together.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your plans to get your career activities completed more efficiently today seem to be going wrong, so keep your effort at an even keel and things will get better. This situation will only test you temporarily.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some plan for pleasure may fall through today, so be content with something else at this time. Be patient later this evening and things will change for the better so that you can become quite successful in the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Something you had planned to do at home today seems to be difficult and could upset you, however, remain calm and things will get better. Later this evening will be good for you to get together with knowledgeable people for discussions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Use particular care today while driving on the highways to prevent great difficulty which could result in an accident. Later this evening will be a good time for you to seek out close friends and plan some fun activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be precise in monetary matters today so that you will have sufficient funds for the lean periods. An expert with wrong ideas could advise you badly at this time, so be cautious about what is being presented.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be steadfast at attaining the wishes which seem so much to you today and thereby you can gain the success which you seek. Don't let delays bother you later this evening and by being patient you can gain recognition.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't get discouraged today over some disappointment since if you are patient things will get better. Please your mate and overlook and demanding qualities which he or she could have which seems distracting.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Avoid a friend today who is too bossy and could be detrimental to your career advancement. If you want to see any friends later this evening make sure they are only the trustworthy ones who are out for your best interests.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

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Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

### THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

1 Wicked

5 Fleshy fruit

9 Surrounded by

14 Treaty latters

15 Elliptical

16 Acid type

17 Pleased

18 Withered

19 Teapot feature

20 It makes an atom an ion

23 Haggard novel

24 One of a flight

25 Ecstasy

29 Athlete's award

33 Flu variety

34 Three, in Hamburg

37 Ostrich kin

38 Ambassador's stand-in

42 Just before dark, to poets

43 Endure

44 Beginning

45 Meddlesome

48 Travelers on the "Net"

50 Originated

53 School gp.

54 Gettysburg event

60 — of Two Cities

61 — Jury (Spillane)

62 Allot

64 Number of ancient wonders

65 Actress Patricia

66 Merit

67 Low cards

68 Look after

69 — Scott

DOWN

1 Sch. subj.

2 Farewell

3 Type style: abbr.

4 Navigator's guide

5 Placard

6 Finished

7 Ruth's record-breaker

8 Choose

9 Iron

10 Make known

11 Fashionable Christian

12 Cozy

13 Carry

21 News anchor, Connie

22 Stockton's state: abbr.

25 Speeds

26 Pala

27 Grand or upright

28 Old Norse poetry collection

30 Concise

31 Arab chieftain

32 Commodore

33 Ethiopian prince

36 News

39 Sir Thomas — (English scholar)

40 Main artery

41 Notified

46 Markswoman, Annie

47 Tropic

49 Supported

51 Be sparing

52 Launder of cosmetics

54 Gone by

55 Roman road

56 dwelling

57 Oland's main role

58 Equipment

59 Reason d —

63 Lineman

SPAR ASHIP PRIM

TELA SCONE TINA

ORANGEROSEGATOR

PUNCH ADELE ANY

HASPE TEMP

HITS THIS OTESIS

EROS ORCA NEURO

HOLLYWOODFINGER

AUDIO NOVA SANE

STINGS PATH RES

GULL NEIL

ARM REACT GORIES

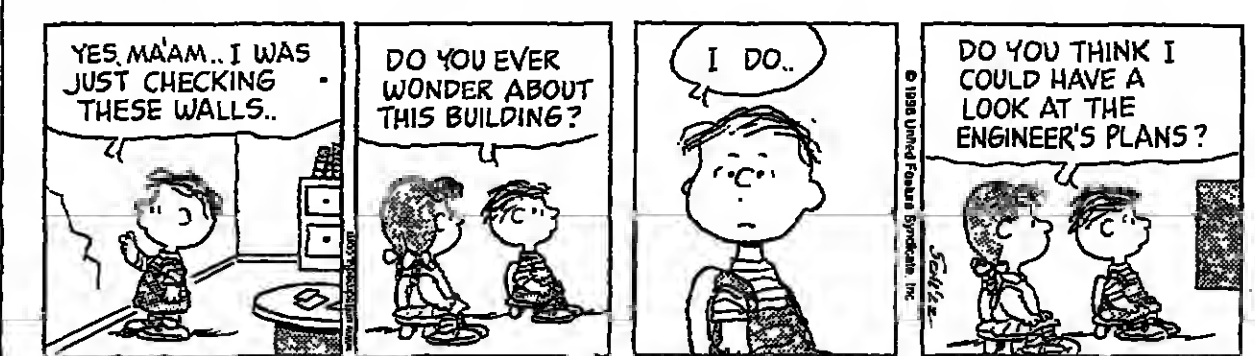
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### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff









# Kukoc leads Bulls' improbable charge to win over Lakers

## NBA ROUNDUP

CHICAGO (R) — Toni Kukoc led a ferocious Bulls' charge from a 22-point deficit as Chicago rallied to score a 129-123 overtime win over the Los Angeles Lakers and Shaquille O'Neal Tuesday in a showdown of division leaders.

Kukoc bombed away from long range to score 20 of his season-high 31 points in the fourth quarter and overtime while the Bulls applied stifling defensive pressure, holding O'Neal without a point for the final 23 minutes.

"We didn't quit," said Kukoc. "We hustled every play until the end."

Scottie Pippen scored 35 points and Michael Jordan added 30 for the Bulls. Nick Van Exel scored 36 points to lead the Lakers, who were on fire until the tide-turning last quarter.

"They came back in the fourth quarter and put a lot of pressure on us," Van Exel said. "I didn't handle the ball well and that is what hurt us. To have this game and lose it is very tough, this one will sting for a while."

Chicago, as far back as 19 points in the fourth quarter, mounted a final push after trailing by 13 with 4:50 to play.

The Bulls pulled into a 114-114 tie on a three-pointer by Kukoc with 47

seconds left. The Lakers (18-8) took the lead 33 seconds later on a drive by Van Exel, but Kukoc made two free throws with seven seconds left to force overtime.

A three-pointer by Kukoc with 1:37 remaining in overtime gave the NBA champions their first lead of the game, 123-121.

Kukoc stepped up for Jordan, who shot 10-of-32 from the field. O'Neal had 27 points and 13 rebounds, but did not score after making a 12-footer with 6:57 left in the third quarter.

"Toni surprises everyone including me," said Chicago (21-31) coach Phil Jackson. "He is the streakiest player in the NBA. He is the best player at running hot and cold. Without his hot hand tonight we do not win."

In Vancouver, Bryant Reeves hit a 10-footer with 5.8 seconds left to vault the lowly Vancouver Grizzlies to a 93-92 upset over the Midwest-leading Houston Rockets.

"This is the biggest win we could get," Reeves said. Vancouver, paced by rookie Shaheed Abdul-Rahim's 22 points, improved to 5-20.

Hakeem Olajuwon's turnaround jumper at the

huzzer from the left baseline failed to hit the rim. "This is the nature of the game, this is the NBA," said Olajuwon, who had 23 points and 14 rebounds for Houston (21-31).

"Five players for each team. There's a lot of talent on the floor and you have to respect that talent."

The Rockets played without star forward Charles Barkley, who missed his second game with a sprained right ankle.

In Miami, Travis Best scored 10 of his 18 points in the first quarter as the Indiana Pacers surprised the Miami Heat 103-89, snapping their five-game winning streak.

Miami star guard Tim Hardaway suffered a strained lower back with 3:55 remaining in the first quarter when he collided with Best and collapsed on the sideline moments later.

Antonio Davis had 21 points with 11 rebounds for Indiana. Alonzo Mourning scored 25 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for Miami (18-6), which lost for the second time in 15 games.

"When you lose a significant part of the team, it's going to affect you," Mourning said. "We didn't adjust to it out there, every-

thing went straight to the bottom."

In New York, Chris Childs scored 24 points, including a tie-breaking, three-pointer with 30 seconds to go to give the Knicks their seventh straight win, 99-94 over the Utah Jazz.

Childs, who scored 22 points after halftime, broke a 94-94 tie with his long-range jumper. After a Utah miss, Childs was fouled and sank two free throws to ice it.

Patrick Ewing had 10 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter for the Knicks (16-6), who squandered an eight-point lead with four minutes to go.

"We had a lot to prove as a team," said Childs. "We have to prove that we can play against teams of that calibre."

Karl Malone scored 29 points for the Jazz (18-4).

In Seattle, Hersey Hawkins scored 30 points, including eight three-pointers, as the SuperSonics raced to a 33-point halftime lead and routed the Golden State Warriors 123-83.

Gary Payton posted 22 of his 24 points in the first half for Seattle (17-9), who ended a three-game losing streak.

Latrell Sprewell scored 26 points for Golden State.

In Dallas, Mookie Blaylock scored 27 points as the Atlanta Hawks set an NBA record for three-pointers in a 109-73 romp over the Dallas Mavericks.

Atlanta shot 19-for-27 from three-point range, breaking the record of 18 set last season by the Mavericks. Blaylock was 7-for-10 from the three-point stripe.

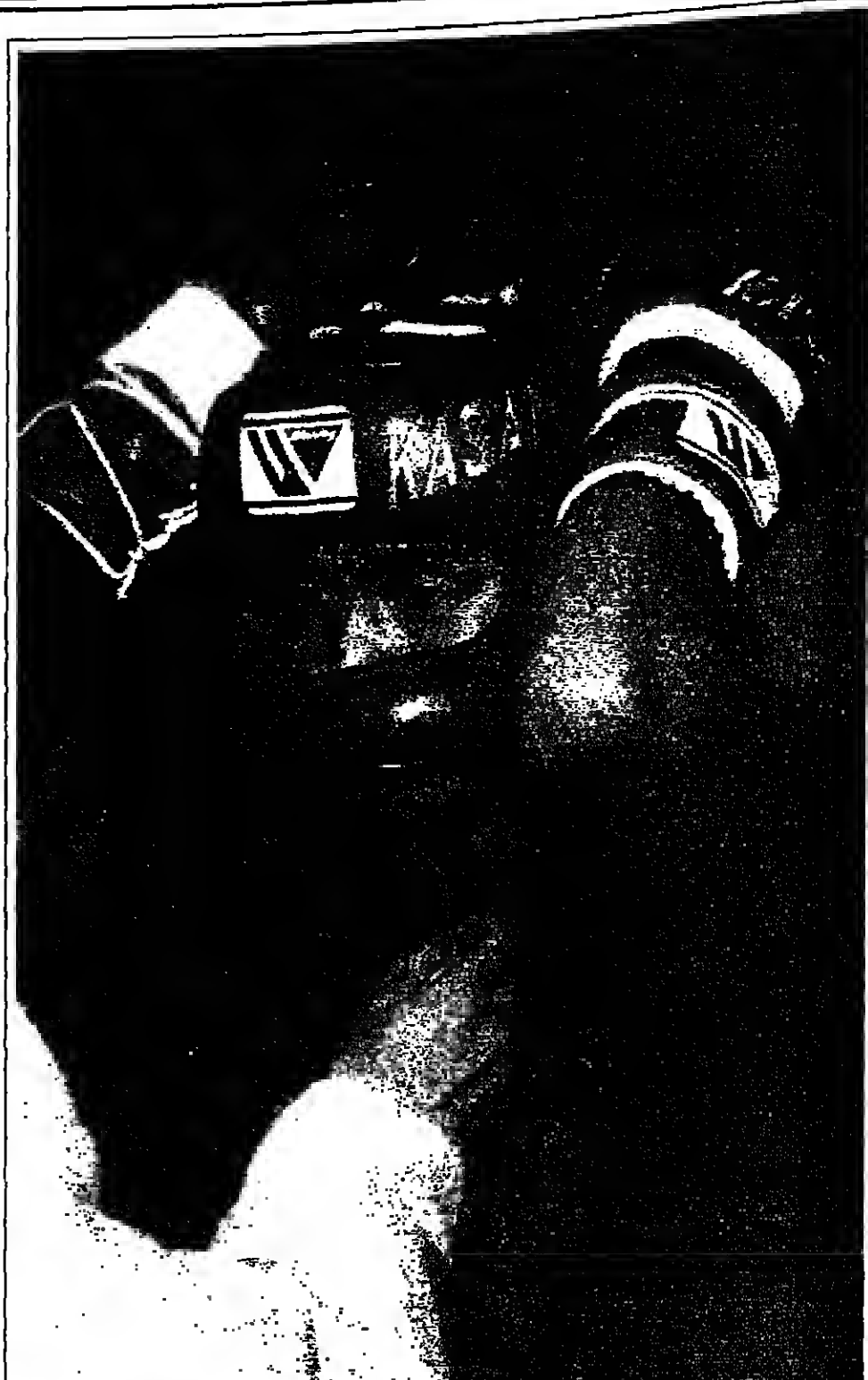
George McCloud had 20 points for Dallas.

In Philadelphia, Muggsy Bogues tied a career-high with 24 points and Mart Geiger added four during a 9-0 fourth-quarter run to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a 93-84 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers, who lost their eighth straight.

Coleman had 27 points for the 76ers. Allen Iverson, returning after missing two games with a shoulder injury, scored 11 points in 36 minutes of play.

At New Jersey, Walt Williams scored 24 points and Damon Stoudamire added 14 of his 17 in the fourth quarter as the Toronto Raptors posted their first road victory of the season with a 97-88 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Rookie Kerry Kittles scored 27 points for the Nets.



JAPANESE BOXER WORKS OUT FOR TITLE FIGHT: Yuichi Kasai, of Japan, adjusts his headgear as he prepares to train Wednesday in Las Vegas. The WBA number one contender Kasai will challenge WBA Jr. Featherweight champion Antonio Cermeno of Venezuela in a 12-round title fight December 21 at the Alladin Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas (Reuters photo)

## Kasparov takes lead in Las Palmas super-tourney

LAS PALMAS, Spain (AFP) — Unofficial world chess champion Gary Kasparov took the sole lead in the Las Palmas Super-Tournament Tuesday when he beat the Ukrainian grandmaster Vasily Ivanchuk in the seventh round of the all-against-all competition.

His pleasure will have been heightened at the defeat of fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov, a result which leaves the former world champion in the lower half of the table.

Kasparov, who beat Ivanchuk in 36 moves, has a half-point lead over India's Viswanathan Anand, who inflicted a first defeat on

Karpov in 34 moves. Ivanchuk slips to third place, a further half-point behind, while Karpov brings up the rear jointly with Bulgaria's Veselin Topalov and the Russian Vladimir Kramnik.

The tournament at Las Palmas, in the Canary Islands, is one of the strongest in history, comprising six of the top seven players in the current world rankings.

Each player takes on all the other twice, once with the white pieces and once with the black.

The eighth round, out of a total of 10, takes place on Thursday.

## Cart drops 'Indycar' from circuit name

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — The litigation battle that loomed between the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) and championship auto racing teams was settled out of court Tuesday, with Cart agreeing to drop the "Indycar" name.

The series formerly known as "Indycar" will now operate as the PPG Cart World Series in 1997.

The crux of the dispute was the use of the term "Indy." Cart had been operating under the "Indycar" name under a 1992 agreement with IMS, and used the name despite its disagreement with IMS throughout the 1996 season.

IMS was seeking a cease-and-desist, claiming that Cart violated the terms of the agreement. In 1996, IMS President Tony George launched the oval-course Indy Racing League, fracturing open-wheel racing in North America into two organisations. A change in engine and design specifications for the Indy 500 differentiated the

circuits.

The speedway serves as the parent organisation to the fledgling IRL series, with the United States Auto Club serving as the sanctioning body.

"As we embark on the second season of the Indy Racing League, it will be clear to sponsors, fans and the general public that 'Indy' cars are the cars that participate in the Indianapolis 500," said George, in Charlotte to announce that the motor speedway here will host an IRL event on July 26.

Cart last year ran a same-day rival event to the Indy 500 — the U.S. 500 at Michigan International Speedway.

Cart has decided not to go head-to-head with the Indy 500 in 1997. The U.S. 500 will be run on the day before the Indy 500, and has been moved to the new Gateway International Raceway in the St. Louis suburb of Madison, Illinois.

## Italian soccer fails economics exam

MILAN (AFP) — Italian footballers may be the newly-crowned world champions, but their clubs are still pre-historic in business terms, according to one of Italy's top economists.

The Italian Serie A is the world's most admired football league and European champions Juventus have just won the Intercontinental Cup in Tokyo.

But behind the scenes, their clubs have yet to realise the full impact of the "Bosman" ruling and need a lesson from the English Premiership" according to Marco Brunelli, a sports expert at top consultancy Nomisma.

The ruling, named after a European court case brought by Belgian footballer Jean-Marc Bosman, outlawed the practice whereby clubs demanded a transfer fee for a player — even if his contract had

expired. Scrapping that practice instantly wiped a few hundred million dollars off the books of European clubs, and threatened disaster in Italy. "An Italian club would sign a player on a four-year contract," Brunelli explained.

"But in their accounts, the cost would be written off over six years — the assumption being that he would still be worth something on the transfer market after the contract had ended."

"Suddenly that residual value wasn't there anymore. Although few clubs risked financial collapse, many found themselves with several billion lire less in their accounts at the end of the year."

Mercifully, the Italian government issued a decree

allowing clubs to spread their Bosman losses over three years, in return for tighter financial controls.

However, the economics of football had been changed for good. "Before, a club president would focus on his playing squad, and try to sort out any financial problems on the transfer market."

Now he has to concentrate on sponsorship, TV rights, merchandising and attracting people into the stadium. "Where Italian clubs have gone wrong, Brunelli argues, is failing to realise they need a constant source of revenue — and one that relies as little as possible on the team's weekly results."

"In England or in the United States, the presidents of clubs who are quoted on

the stock exchange do not say 'this year, we will win the championship they say 'this year, we'll make sure the public enjoy themselves'."

"In Italy, we have yet to take up the idea of drawing people to a football ground which is open 250 days a year and not just 30. "Manchester United earn eight billion lire (\$5 million) a year from restaurant facilities, conferences and other events at Old Trafford."

"And do know what the most visited museum in Barcelona is? Gaudi's? No, it's Barcelona FC's."

"In terms of marketing, Italy is still in pre-history. The merchandising of the entire Serie A put together is worth less than any top English club or Barcelona or Ajax Amsterdam."

"And good intentions over merchandising from the clubs is not enough. There also needs to be a crackdown on the counterfeiters."

"The reason why the NBA is so successful in the United States is because people pay for exclusive merchandising rights — and there are police on the streets to make sure those rights are respected," he told AFP.

Brunelli, who is working on a book "The Economics of Professional Italian Football Clubs," realises that much that is wrong cannot easily be put right.

Every football club in Britain has its own stadium and is free to build lucrative executive boxes, restaurants and conference rooms. Improved facilities and a police crackdown on hooli-

ganism has meanwhile seen attendances soar.

In Italy, the stadiums are owned by the local authorities and shared by teams. Ticket prices are high and attendances have fallen every year for the last four years.

Several key grounds — Milan's San Siro, Rome's Olympic Stadium and Turin's Delle Alpi — were meanwhile expanded to host the World Cup in 1990 and are now hugely expensive to run.

Delle Alpi alone costs \$5 million a year in maintenance. The result, Brunelli says, "is that we have to live with the legacy of stadiums of 70,000 or 80,000 capacity that nobody needs. "But it will be difficult to explain to people that we need better-equipped grounds for 40,000 people that are cheaper to run and are owned by the clubs."

**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH

**COMBINE YOUR CHANCES**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 4 3  
♥ 10 9 8 4  
♦ J 9 7 4

**WEST**  
♠ 6 5  
♥ A K Q J 6  
♦ A K 5 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ 7 3 2  
♥ J 9 7 2  
♦ A K Q 10 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q J 10 9 7 2  
♥ A K Q 10  
♦ A 5 3 2  
♣ Void

The bidding:  
SOUTH: 1♣, 2♦, 3♥, 4♠, 5♠, 6♠, 7♠, 8♠, 9♠, 10♠, 11♠, 12♠, 13♠, 14♠, 15♠, 16♠, 17♠, 18♠, 19♠, 20♠, 21♠, 22♠, 23♠, 24♠, 25♠, 26♠, 27♠, 28♠, 29♠, 30♠, 31♠, 32♠, 33♠, 34♠, 35♠, 36♠, 37♠, 38♠, 39♠, 40♠, 41♠, 42♠, 43♠, 44♠, 45♠, 46♠, 47♠, 48♠, 49♠, 50♠, 51♠, 52♠, 53♠, 54♠, 55♠, 56♠, 57♠, 58♠, 59♠, 60♠, 61♠, 62♠, 63♠, 64♠, 65♠, 66♠, 67♠, 68♠, 69♠, 70♠, 71♠, 72♠, 73♠, 74♠, 75♠, 76♠, 77♠, 78♠, 79♠, 80♠, 81♠, 82♠, 83♠, 84♠, 85♠, 86♠, 87♠, 88♠, 89♠, 90♠, 91♠, 92♠, 93♠, 94♠, 95♠, 96♠, 97♠, 98♠, 99♠, 100♠.

Opening lead: King of ♠.

There are two ways to attack a problem hand. Cash all your winners and hope that the opponents make a mistake, or check whether there is a legitimate line for your contract.

Any money player would love to pick up a hand like that of South's once a week. There is no textbook way to bid it. South's method is as good as any, since it might provoke the opponents into taking a phantom sacrifice on some hands where six spades would not make.

<b>TODAY AT</b>	<b>CINEMA TEL:634144</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA "1"</b> Richard Gere...in <b>PRIMAL FEAR</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA "2"</b> <b>VIRTUOSITY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CINEMA TEL:699238</b> <b>PLAZA</b> Sean Connery ....in <b>THE ROCK</b> (IN DOLBY STEREO) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	<b>CINEMA TEL:677420</b> <b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD "1"</b> Sharon Stone & Isabelle Adjani...in <b>DIABOLIQUE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>Ammoon Theatre &amp; Cinema TEL:618274 - 618275</b> Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: <b>Mahmoud Saimah &amp; Hussein Tubishat</b> Play starts 8:30 p.m.	<b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Theatre TEL:625155</b> The theatre is closed from Dec. 15, 1996 until the start of the Holy Month of Ramadan in order to prepare for a new play entitled <b>"Al Aman Ya Ho"</b>
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## Penalty shootout lets Saudis squeeze into Asian Cup final

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia won a penalty shootout against Iran 4-3 here on Wednesday to squeeze into the final of the Asian Cup against the United Arab Emirates on Saturday. It was a stunning semi-final escape for a Saudi side who were outplayed for most of the match.

Iran showed why they were the revelation of the tournament, dominating large parts of a game that at times threatened to erupt into violence.

Saudi's match winning hero against China Yousif Al Thunain failed to weave any of his magic in mid-field and the 33-year-old was finally substituted in the 75th minute.

The 33-year-old had shown only traces of his genius, the Iranian defence all but shutting him down.

German first division side Arminia Bielefeld had specially flown in one of their coaching staff to watch Iran's four goal hero of their demolition of South Korea — striker Ali Daei.

It was very nearly a very short match for the lanky Daei. He was booked in the sixth minute after a clumsy tackle on Hissain Omar by Egyptian referee Gamal Ghannour and nearly collected a second, and an automatic expulsion, only minutes later.

Frantic signals from the Iranian bench telling him to settle down seemed to do the trick as Daei began using his height to pose serious problems in the Saudi defence.

As both sides tried to find a way to break the deadlock Daei headed down a perfect pass to Karim Bagheri on the six-yard line but he somehow managed to miss the ball completely.

Iranian midfielder Khodadad Azizi, vying for the title of player of the tournament, got the ball in the net in the 31st minute after Mohammad Al Daeyu failed to hold a 30-yard free kick. But it was ruled offside.

Saudi chances were few and far between as the Iranian defence stood firm.



Supporters of the Iranian team carry their country's flag and recite from the Holy Koran during their side's match against the Saudis in the UAE Wednesday (AFP photo)

One golden opportunity came early on when Al Thunain, showing a flash of inspiration, set Omar free on the left wing but his low cross behind the defence was missed first by Sami Al Jaber and then by Fahad Mahalel.

With Saudi's hopes of taking their third Asian Cup seemingly fading fast Portuguese coach Eduardo Vinagada brought on striker Abdullah Jama'an.

The 19-year-old has a fierce shot and is capable of scoring from anywhere and with only 30 seconds remaining in regulation time he let fly from 35 yards. The ball flashed off the crossbar and a relieved Iranian defence scrambled it clear.

Jama'an also had a chance five minutes from the end of golden goal extra-time when he forced a brilliant save from Nima Nakisa. Nakisa hurt himself in the attempt and was replaced by Ahmed Abedzadeh.

Iranian midfielder Khodadad Azizi, vying for the title of player of the tournament, got the ball in the net in the 31st minute after Mohammad Al Daeyu failed to hold a 30-yard free kick. But it was ruled offside.

Saudi chances were few and far between as the Iranian defence stood firm.



UAE's forward Ibrahim Hussein (right) tackles Kuwaiti defender Bashar Abdul Aziz during their Asian Cup semi-final match Wednesday (AFP photo)

## UAE elbow their way into final

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates overcame a 1-0 deficit to elbow their way into the Asian Cup final when they beat Kuwait 1-0 in the semi-finals here on Wednesday.

The UAE's notorious slow starters survived the opening 45 minutes before starting to gradually dominate a Kuwaiti side who have struggled throughout the tournament to last the full 90 minutes.

The UAE's surprise trip to Saturday's final was booked in the 70th minute when the Kuwaiti defence failed to pick up Hassan Ahmad.

As he charged into the box to meet a Mohammad Mohammad corner, the ball was almost in the back of the net before Kuwaiti keeper Fahad Al Majidi had time to react.

The 55,000 UAE spectators went into a frenzy. But the Emirates can consider themselves fortunate not to have been playing with only nine men for nearly half the match.

## 'Just let me play,' Baggio tells Milan

MILAN (R) — Roberto Baggio on Tuesday dismissed as a joke media reports he would quit AC Milan for city rivals Inter, but said his future would remain unclear unless they let him play.

"I categorically deny the joke that I have offered myself to Inter," Baggio told reporters. "And I haven't had any meetings with Parma."

But he added: "I don't know yet whether I will stay at Milan or whether I will leave. The only sure thing is I want to play."

Media reports at the weekend said Baggio, who is suffering from sciatica, had quarrelled with Arrigo Sacchi, the former national coach who returned to his old club Milan two weeks ago.

Nicknamed "The Divine Ponytail" by fans, Baggio missed a penalty in the 1994 World Cup final in Los Angeles against Brazil and played for Italy only sporadically until Sacchi dropped him from the Italy squad for the European championship in England in June.

Newspapers speculated that was the cause of ill-will between the two men, now working together again at Milan, where Baggio has spent much of the season on the bench.

Sacchi said Baggio had no divine right to play. "All the players...are the same to me," he told reporters on Tuesday. "I don't have preferences. I play whoever's most on form...If Baggio stays, I'll be happy but I can't guarantee anyone a place in the team."

Baggio, 29, joined Milan at the start of last season from current world club champions Juventus but was injured for much of the campaign.

## Indurain future hinges on \$10 million fee

MADRID (AFP) — Five-times Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain may retire next season if the once cycling team cannot raise \$10 million from sponsorship to pay his salary.

Madrid daily El Pais said Wednesday the 32-year-old had refused to re-sign for his Banesto team and was negotiating with Once, whose star riders are Frenchman Laurent Jalabert and Alex Zülle of Switzerland, this year's Tour de France winner.

El Pais said Indurain would race the Tour de France and Tour of Spain next year if he joined Once, the same as Jalabert. Zülle would ride in the Tour de France and Tour of Italy.

Indurain's attempt for a record sixth Tour de France victory was thwarted by Denmark's Bjarne Riis this year.

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# League hails halt to normalisation of ties with Israel

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League Wednesday hailed the decision by Oman and Tunisia to suspend normalisation with Israel because they hold it responsible for blocking the Middle East peace process.

When he returned to Cairo from a visit to Muscat, the league's assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, Said Kamal, told journalists he told Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi of the league's "satisfaction."

Mr. Kamal also praised Tunisia's decision "to freeze normalisation with Israel." "The measures taken by Oman and Tunisia form a clear message to the (right-wing) Likud government (of Israel) to change its position on the peace process before the situation deteriorates further in the region," Mr. Kamal said.

Mr. Ben Alawi confirmed Monday his country's decision "to freeze official contact" with Israel until it "changes its position" on the peace process.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Habib Ben Yehia Monday told parliament that Israeli-Tunisian ties are currently "frozen" and that Tunisia is "reconsidering normalising relations" with the Jewish state, the Arab daily Al Hayat reported Wednesday.

Tunisia's prime minister said in Amman, Tunis will

slow the normalisation of ties with Israel if peace talks do not progress, but does not plan to freeze relations.

"The pace of normalisation of relations with Israel is linked to Israeli compliance with accords and commitments to accords reached with the Palestinians," said Prime Minister Hamed Al Karoui (see story on page 2).

The prime minister said he was unaware of Arab press reports that quoted Mr. Ben Yahya threatening to freeze relations with Israel.

Tunisia is one of the few Arab countries that opted to normalise ties with Israel in anticipation of a resolution of the status of Palestinians, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. A Tunisian interest section opened in Israel earlier this year.

Relations between Israel and the region's Arab countries have been strained since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in May, pledging a tougher stance in the peace process.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the Arab League, said Wednesday that Israel's hardline policies threatened to scuttle the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Abdul Meguid also stressed that a just and comprehensive peace would have to include an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon and the Palestinian territo-

ries. "Israel's current policies and provocations by expanding settlements do not signal a real desire to proceed with the peace process," Mr. Abdul Meguid said.

He added: "We warn Israel against the consequences of continuing a policy that is contrary to the peace tide and which restores a climate of violence and tension to the region."

Mr. Abdul Meguid spoke at the Arab-European arbitration conference, which opened in Beirut on Wednesday. The conference is sponsored by President Elias Hrawi.

At the conference, Mr. Hrawi rejected an Israeli proposal that a multinational peacekeeping force, including Egyptian and Jordanian soldiers, be deployed in southern Lebanon when Israel withdraws from its border enclave.

The proposal was reportedly made Tuesday by Israel's public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani. "The new Israeli manoeuvre is rejected," Mr. Hrawi said. "Let Israel implement Resolution 425."

It was a reference to the U.N. Security Council resolution which calls on Israel to withdraw its troops from the border enclave it has occupied since 1985.



**STORMED BUILDING:** A view of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru. The building was stormed by Peruvian communist rebels on Tuesday. The rebels threatened to kill at least 200 hostages, including high-ranking foreign diplomats, unless the government released their jailed comrades (Reuters photo)

## Uday Hussein seen on road to recovery after television appearance

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday seemed on the road to recovery Wednesday after appearing for the first time on television since he was wounded in an assassination attempt last week.

Uday, 33, blamed the "cowardly" attack on Iran when state television late Tuesday showed him speaking to visitors from his hospital bed where he lay without bandages to his head although he was covered to his neck by sheets.

"Those who stabbed us in the back are known and we know where they come from... They tested us for eight years," Uday said in an allusion to the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

The betrayal was "alien to Arab traditions," said President Saddam's eldest son who spoke clearly and occasionally smiled during two separate segments of three minutes each.

The Shiite Muslim Iraqi opposition group Al Daawa Al Islamiya, which has offices in Tehran, issued a statement from its Beirut office Saturday claiming responsibility for the ambush last Thursday in Baghdad's Al Mansour district.

Iraq's official newspapers on Wednesday carried front-page stories and pictures of the television interview at Ben Sina Hospital in Baghdad while editorialists wished him a quick and complete recovery.

"I feel as a military general would feel on the battlefield," Uday added during a visit from a representative of the official Iraqi News Agency (INA), adding that he was "ready to sacrifice myself again for Iraq."

"My brother and I are ready to die as martyrs for Iraq," Uday added in the broadcast by Youth Television, which he runs.

"Thanks to God Iraq is safe and sound," he told a visiting Qatari diplomat, who was accompanied by President Saddam's other son Qusai.

The diplomat was delivering a get-well message from

## Taiwan foreign minister addresses Yarmouk faculty

AMMAN (R) — Taiwan's foreign minister slipped discreetly into Jordan on Wednesday and gave an economics lecture at a northern Jordanian University, sources at the university said.

Foreign Minister John Chang, travelling to Europe on a trip cloaked in secrecy to evade arch-rival China's tightening diplomatic embargo, spoke to members of the economics faculty at Yarmouk University, they said.

Government officials declined to comment on Mr. Chang's presence in Jordan, which has diplomatic ties with China.

(An official source told the Jordan Times Mr. Chang was on a private visit to Jordan.)

Communist China views Taiwan as a rebel province since a civil war in 1949 and refuses relations with any country that recognises Taiwan.

Taiwanese media said Mr. Chang, who left Taiwan earlier this week, was travelling to Abu Dhabi and Jordan, en route to Italy.

The trip is one of four overseas damage-control missions planned by top Taiwan officials since South Africa, Taipei's largest ally, declared it would switch ties to Beijing.

Journalists at Amman airport on Wednesday saw an Asian guest being ushered from the VIP terminal to a fleet of silver Mercedes shortly after the arrival of a scheduled flight from Abu Dhabi.

Security forces tried to stop cameramen filming and government officials later declined to say who the mystery guest was.

Another government official, who also declined to confirm that Mr. Chang was visiting, said there was no formal invitation to Mr. Chang from the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

Amman last year hosted Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui, despite fierce opposition from Beijing.

Jordan has strong commercial ties with Taiwan but does not recognise it as an independent state. It described President Lee's visit, including a meeting with Crown Prince Hassan and Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, as a private trip.

Mr. Chang and Vice-President Lien Chan have between them visited Ukraine, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa and Belgium over the last year in similar trips veiled in secrecy.

Mr. Chang said on Monday he would also visit diplomatic ally Guatemala for the December 29th signing of a peace pact between its government and leftist rebels.

Journalists at Amman airport on Wednesday saw an



## Christopher loves Irish coffee, no whiskey please

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher loves Irish coffee — but without the Irish whiskey and the caffeine, please. The straight-faced Christopher stopped 32 times in Ireland during his four-year tenure, mostly to refuel his plane at Shannon airport, which is famous for its Irish coffee. "It used to be the custom of many members of the travelling party to order Irish coffee," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. "Secretary Christopher used to order an Irish coffee and ask that they make it with decaf and hold the whiskey, please."

## California pub to give up Bank of Ireland name

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A San Francisco bar and restaurant being sued by a 200-year-old Irish bank for calling itself "the Bank of Ireland" has agreed to change its name, the bar's attorney said on Tuesday. The pub opened last January, and the owners chose the name because it was in the heart of San Francisco's financial district and stood out from the city's many other Irish bars. "The bank does not wish to be affiliated in any way with the sale of alcohol under its name, or with the sale of food (such as the 'Bank of Ireland burger')," the lawsuit said. The pub said its new name would be "the Irish bank."

## Tattle-taling on Italian tax evaders

ROME (R) — Italians can now rat on tax dodgers at the touch of a telephone pad. A new three-digit free phone number, similar to those for police, ambulance and fire services, has been introduced by finance police in Italy, where taxes are high and fiscal evasion is almost a national sport. A finance police official said the "117" service was drawing a heavy response, with people reporting shops for not giving them proper receipts and unregistered door-to-door salesmen. The new number allows people to make anonymous accusations. Some newspaper commentators said it could mostly be used by spurned lovers or people looking to settle family feuds.

## Florida vampire clan indicted in slayings

TAVARES, Florida (R) — A Florida grand jury indicted four of five teenage members of a "vampire clan" for murder, and they could be sent to Florida's electric chair if convicted. The only one of the five not indicted was Heather Wendorf, 15, whose parents were slain on Nov. 25. The grand jury will take up her case in January. The grand jurors found compelling evidence that Rod Ferrell, 16, the alleged ringleader of a Kentucky "vampire clan" of youths who drank one another's blood and engaged in bizarre rituals, killed the Wendorfs with a crowbar or claw hammer.

## Rolling Stones to hit the road again

LONDON (AFP) — Strutting superstar, Mick Jagger and his middle-aged Rolling Stones are to hit the road again next summer for a marathon tour to promote their latest album, Jagger's press service said Tuesday. A friend of the group said the four, Jagger, 53, Ron Wood, 50, Charlie Watts, 55, and Keith Richards, 53, were rolling again for the sheer pleasure of it, not for money. The tour which accompanied the album Voodoo Lounge in 1995 earned the stones \$410 million.

## Arab women see their role unrecognised yet in politics

By Christina Schlegl  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab women have assumed leadership positions in culture and economy but their role in politics has not been fully recognised and valued yet, female delegates participating in a political parties' conference in Amman said Wednesday.

Speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of the third day of the conference, which is attended by representatives of 64 Arab political parties, the delegates saw that most Arab parties had efficient and active women at their bases but were not granted senior positions in political groups.

The delegates called on political organisations to abandon the traditional roles given to Arab women and encourage them to participate in political life.

Salwa Abu Khadra, a Faheh delegate to the conference, stressed that Palestinian women were underrepresented in decision-making.

However, the delegates rejected the assumption that the relegation of women in politics is a feature limited to the Arab World.

Wissal Farha Bagdach, secretary general of the cen-

tral committee of the Syrian Communist Party, pointed out that only nine per cent of the Italian parliament were female, while women representation in Syria's parliament stands at 9.5 per cent.

There are only seven women (three from Jordan, two from Palestine and two from Syria) among more than 200 delegates participating in the Amman conference, according to a list provided by Jordan's Al Mustaqbal Party, the conference's organiser.

Hashem Abu Hassan, spokesperson of Al Mustaqbal, blamed the low level of female participants on what he said was the lack of interest of women.

Dr. Abu Hassan asserted that women were still hesitating to take an active role in politics and that men were still conservative.

"The number of female delegates (in the conference) does not reflect the great role women are playing in the Arab society," Mrs. Bagdach maintained.

Delegates stated that working papers on politics, economy and education presented on Tuesday to the audience did not entirely tackle the women's role in future Arab affairs as only a report on education emphasised women's role.

Defending that shortcoming on the conference's agenda, Dr. Abu Hassan stated that the "problems (tracing efforts to unify the Arab opinions) discussed here are of more importance."

He promised that the issue of women would be tackled in depth during the next meeting of Arab political parties.

Mrs. Bagdach, Mrs. Abu Khadra and other delegates who spoke to the Jordan Times complained that while women are granted equal rights in the constitutional texts, the concept of equality was not fully implemented in daily life.

Women, Halifa Al Bashir from the Jordanian Wa'd Party said, are often considered by men as "mere citizens" instead of equal partners in politics.

Men in the Arab World, she said, are still conservative and do not accept women as their counterparts on the political platform.

Another fact that hinders women's participation in higher numbers in politics is the double role they have to play in life, being housewives and businesswomen at the same time, which leaves them with no spare time to dedicate themselves

(Continued on page 7)

## Bahrain court to rule on Qatari 'spying' case on Dec. 25

MANAMA (Agencies) — The state security court decided Wednesday it will rule in the case of two Qatari citizens accused of spying on Dec. 25.

The trial, which opened earlier this month, has worsened already strained ties between Bahrain and Qatar. The two countries dispute jurisdiction over a chain of islands and a strip of land in Qatar.

The accused spies, Fahd Hamad Abdullah Al Bakker, 28, and Salwa Jassem Mohammad Fakhri, 33, could face the death penalty if convicted.

The two confessed prior to the trial that they conveyed information about Bahrain's armed forces and the civil

unrest in the country to Qatari intelligence.

But lawyers say Ms. Fakhri denied all charges in court and Mr. Bakker denied most of them.

Mr. Bakker's attorney, Abdullah Fakhru, said that information involved in the case was common knowledge and did not amount to military secrets.

A government statement said the court listened to a medical report stating that Mr. Bakker was in good mental health and was "responsible for the confessions" he gave to an investigating judge before the tribunal. His lawyer had asked for an examination.

Rulings of the three-judge court cannot be appealed.

Qatar denies any spying was conducted on behalf of its government. It has warned Qataris to be cautious when visiting Bahrain.

The procedures are closed to the press. But relatives of the two defendants have been attending.

Ms. Fakhri's sisters and her daughter were able to meet with her unattended Wednesday, the statement said. Mr. Bakker's mother and aunt did the same.

The defence lawyer sought to refute prosecution accusations that the two Qataris "undertook acts of espionage in return for sums of money with the aim of undermining (Bahrain's) political and economic stability."

Bahrain announced the arrests of the pair on Dec. 2 and then opened the trial two days later.

Qatar, which said that any verdict would be null and void, accused Bahrain of having extracted confessions using torture.

The Bahraini authorities said Ms. Fakhri, who was recruited in 1993 in London, sent military intelligence about Bahrain to Qatar and visited the disputed Hawar islands to spy on Bahraini military installations there.

She was also alleged to have sought details about anti-government unrest sweeping Bahrain for the last two years.

The two countries have

been locked in a dispute over the Hawar islands for decades, but Bahrain boycotted the Gulf Arab summit on Dec. 7-9 because of Qatar's handling of the dispute and the alleged spying incident.

Qatar hosted the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — which includes Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Bahrain, which insists the border dispute be settled within the GCC, has complained that Qatar has taken the case to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.